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SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS

Competition in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Pakistan. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. September 15, 2011.

US competition with Iran has become the equivalent of a game of three-dimensional chess, but a game where each side can modify at least some of the rules with each move. It is also a game that has been going on for some three decades. It is clear that it is also a game that is unlikely to be ended by better dialog and mutual understanding, and that Iran's version of "democracy" is unlikely to change the way it is played in the foreseeable future. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110914_Iran_Ch_9_AfPakCentAsia.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Do Tax Cuts Boost the Economy? Center for Economic and Policy Research. David Rosnick and Dean Baker. September 13, 2011.

There are many economists who argue that temporary tax cuts have no impact on the economy. They argue that people will save a temporary tax credit rather than spend it. Stanford Economics Professor John Taylor, who served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs under President Bush, is one of the economists making this argument. He purports to show that there was no statistically significant increase in private consumption of goods and services as a result of certain types of government transfers made over the last decade. According to his analysis, it is unclear whether an additional dollar of government transfers led to any additional spending, or, alternatively, whether it raised personal savings by more than one dollar. The paper shows that there is very little indication that, based on Taylor's work, personal transfers from the government fail to stimulate private spending. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/tax-cuts-2011-09.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

How Reliable is Intelligence on Iran's Nuclear Program? Atlantic Council. Barbara Slavin. September 15, 2011.

The Iran Task Force seeks to perform a comprehensive analysis of Iran's internal political landscape, as well as its role in the region and globally, to assess whether there are any elements within the country and region that can build the basis for an improved relationship with the West and how these

elements, if they exist, could be utilized by U.S. policymakers. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/091511_ACUS_IranNucler.PDF [PDF format, 16 pages].

Twenty Years of Collapse and Counting: The Cost of Failure in Somalia. Center for American Progress. John Norris and Bronwyn Bruton. September 14, 2011.

John Norris and Bronwyn Bruton look at the case of Somalia to explore the high cost crisis response rather than prevention. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/somalia.pdf> [PDF format, 60 pages].

Currency Wars. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush and Vera Eidelman. September 15, 2011.

The real cause of today's currency tensions lies not in the international monetary system, but in misguided domestic policies in the world's major economies, which must undertake long overdue and largely internal reforms, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/currency_wars.pdf [PDF format, 118 pages].

The Growing Danger of Non-communicable Diseases: Acting Now to Reverse Course. The World Bank. September 15, 2011.

The World Bank warns that heart disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory conditions, and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) increasingly threaten the health and economic security of many lower- and middle-income countries, and that most countries lack the money and health services to be able to 'treat their way out' of the NCD crisis. On the eve of a special United Nations summit on NCDs in New York, the Bank said the rise of chronic diseases, especially among young working adults in these countries, was a danger that warranted immediate global attention. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/HEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/Resources/Peer-Reviewed-Publications/WBDeepeningCrisis.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

Congressional Authority to Limit Military Operations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jennifer K. Elsea et al. September 8, 2011.

Controversy continues over the appropriate role that Congress should play in regulating U.S. military operations against foreign entities. U.S. action against Libya reignited consideration of long-standing questions concerning the President's constitutional authority to use military force without congressional authorization, as well as congressional authority to regulate or limit the use of force. As Congress considers defense authorization and appropriations bills for FY2012, there may be a renewed focus on whether or to what extent Congress has the constitutional authority to legislate limits on the President's authority to conduct military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, or other locations.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R41989.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

Can Water Allocation in the Yellow River Basin be Improved? International Food Policy Research Institute. Ximing Cai et al. September 2011.

In 1999, the Government of China enforced a cross-provincial, quota-based Water Allocation Agreement that was developed in 1987 and titled Unified Water Flow Regulation (UWFR) to ensure that flow to the Yellow River mouth would not be cut off. This policy was in line with the refocus of the Government, over the last decade, on sustainable water use and keeping the Yellow River healthy. The policy enforcement ended more than two decades of flow-cutoffs, that is, periods when the Yellow River did not reach the Bohai Sea at its mouth, during an increasing number of days every year. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01117.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Housing Finance in Brazil: Institutional Improvements and Recent Developments. Inter-American Development Bank. Bruno Martins et al. September 2011.

Despite a recent expansion in housing finance, Brazil still faces a severe housing shortage, especially among lower-income people, and it is important to examine the development, limitations and prospects of the country's housing finance market. The paper investigates the recent evolution of that market in Brazil, focusing on whether the current expansion in mortgage

lending is the result of institutional and economic improvements favoring economic stability and compliance with contractual obligations or is merely an effect of the higher level of housing loans imposed by the government on financial institutions. Different explanations are found for private and public institutions. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=36411946> [PDF format, 33 pages].

The Case for a Global Business Coalition for Education. Brookings Institution. Justin W. van Fleet. September 2011

While there are tens of millions of children out of school, hundreds of millions more are in school, but receiving an education of such poor quality that they have little prospect of gaining the literacy, numeracy and life-skills that they need to be productive members of society. This crisis has economic and social benefits that are devastatingly high, stifling economic growth, perpetuating poverty, and creating unstable societies. This crisis has a direct impact on the business community and its bottom line. Corporations must come together under the united banner of a Global Business Coalition for Education to address the education crisis head-on for the benefit of both society and business, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/09_global_business_coalition_vanfleet/Education%20Global%20Views_Final.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Chesapeake Bay: Restoration Effort Needs Common Federal and State Goals and Assessment Approach. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 15, 2011.

The Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed includes 4 broad goals, 12 specific measurable goals with deadlines, and 116 actions to restore the bay by 2025. To achieve the broad and measurable goals, federal agencies, often in collaboration with the watershed states and other entities, are responsible for accomplishing the actions. However, not all stakeholders are working toward achieving the Strategy goals. The watershed states are critical partners in the effort to restore the bay, but state officials told GAO that they are not working toward the Strategy goals, in part because they view the Strategy as a federal document. Instead, most state bay restoration work is conducted according to state commitments made in a previous bay restoration agreement, the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11802.pdf> [PDF format, 59 pages].

Criminal Prohibitions on the Publication of Classified Defense Information. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jennifer K. Elsea. September 8, 2011.

The online publication of classified defense documents and diplomatic cables by the organization WikiLeaks and subsequent reporting by the New York Times and other news media have focused attention on whether such publication violates U.S. criminal law. The suspected source of the material, Army Private Bradley Manning, has been charged with a number of offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), including aiding the enemy, while a grand jury in Virginia is deciding whether to indict any civilians in connection with the disclosure. A number of other cases involving charges under the Espionage Act demonstrate the Obama Administration's relatively hard-line policy with respect to the prosecution of persons suspected of leaking classified information to the media.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/R41404.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

Informing Writing: The Benefits of Formative Assessment. Alliance for Excellent Education. Steve Graham et al. September 15, 2011.

Although some progress has been made in improving the writing achievement of students in American schools, most students do not write well enough to meet grade-level demands. One tool with potential for improving students' ability to effectively convey thoughts and ideas through text is classroom-based writing assessment. Such formative assessments allow teachers to gauge the effectiveness of their instructional practices, modify instruction as needed, and provide students with feedback on writing strengths and areas in need of further development. The report provides evidence that formative writing enhances students' writing, as well as best practices for assessing writing in the classroom. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/InformingWriting.pdf> [PDF format, 82 pages].

Pursuing Cyber Statecraft. Atlantic Council. Jason Healey. September 13, 2011.

If the world is going to solve problems of cooperation and conflict in cyberspace, states and non-state actors alike must apply a wider range of tools. Cyber statecraft will be an important way to discover and implement better set of such tools, writes Jason Healey. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/091311_ACUS_PursuingCyber.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

The Great Unraveling: A Portrait of the Middle Class. Demos. September 8, 2011.

The American Dream used to mean that if you put in a hard day's work, you could expect good wages, benefits, and a better life for your kids. But the kinds of jobs that can provide a solid middle-class life in return for hard work are in short supply-unemployment remains high, earnings are volatile, and hard-won benefits are being lost. For the first time, the majority of Americans believe their children will not be better off than them. The future of the middle class, which has been the backbone of our nation's economy for more than half a century, is at risk, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.demos.org/pubs/Final_Natl_brief.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Promoting Peace? Reexamining U.S. Aid to the Palestinian Authority. Council on Foreign Relations. Elliott Abrams. September 14, 2011.

With the upcoming vote at the United Nations on Palestinian statehood, Elliott Abrams urges Congress to reexamine the U.S. aid program to the Palestinian Authority in his testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/israel/promoting-peace-reexamining-us-aid-palestinian-authority/p25871> [HTML format, various paging].

MetroMonitor: Tracking Economic Recession and Recovery in America's 100 Largest Metropolitan Areas. Brookings Institution. Howard Wial and Richard Shearer. September 15, 2011.

Data for the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas do not fully reflect the most recent national trends because most metropolitan economic indicators are available only through the second quarter of 2011, ending in June. The metropolitan data through the second quarter show widespread but generally very slow growth in both jobs and economic output. Unemployment rates, although lower than at the beginning of 2010 in most large metropolitan areas, remained very high. House prices hit new lows in all large metropolitan areas even as the pace of foreclosures slowed in half of those areas. Workers' earnings, available at the metropolitan level through the first quarter of 2011, fell in slightly more than half of the nation's large metropolitan areas since the beginning of the recession. Manufacturing employment continued to rise through the second quarter of the year in most large metropolitan areas. Government employment continued to fall in most. As always, metropolitan economic performance varied greatly among the 100 largest metropolitan areas. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/Metro/metro_monitor/2011_09_metro_monitor/0915_metro_monitor.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

The Error at the Heart of the Dodd-Frank Act. American Enterprise Institute. Peter J. Wallison. September 6, 2011.

According to the report, the financial crisis was not caused by the disorderly bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, but by a common shock to all firms: the decline in mortgage values after the housing bubble collapsed, exacerbated by mark-to-market accounting. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/FSO-2011-September-Wallison.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Beginning Teacher Attrition and Mobility: Results From the First Through Third Waves of the 2007-08 Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study. National Center for Education Statistics. September 14, 2011.

The report provides selected findings from the first three waves of the Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study (BTLS) along with data tables and methodological information. The BTLS follows a sample of public elementary and secondary school teachers who participated in the 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), and whose first year of teaching was 2007 or 2008. The BTLS sample includes teachers who leave teaching in the years after the SASS data collection and those who continue to teach either in the same school as the last year or in a different school. The purpose of the Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study is to provide a better understanding of the impact that different life events have on teachers careers, such as getting married, moving to a new location, or starting a family.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011318.pdf> [PDF format, 45 pages].

Improving America's Hospitals: The Joint Commission's Annual Report on Quality and Safety 2011. The Joint Commission. September 14, 2011.

For the first time, The Joint Commission's 2011 annual report on quality and safety, Improving America's Hospitals, lists hospitals and critical access hospitals that are top performers in using evidence-based care processes closely linked to positive patient outcomes. The 405 organizations identified as attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for the full previous year (2010) represent approximately 14 percent of Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals that report core measure performance data. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/249296/joint-commission-report-on-quality-and-safety.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

Drug Safety: FDA Faces Challenges Overseeing the Foreign Drug Manufacturing Supply Chain. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 14, 2011.

Globalization has placed increasing demands on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs marketed in the United States. The pharmaceutical industry has increasingly relied on global supply chains in which each manufacturing step may be outsourced to foreign establishments. As part of its efforts, FDA may conduct inspections of foreign drug manufacturing establishments, but there are concerns that the complexity of the drug manufacturing supply chain and the volume of imported drugs has created regulatory challenges for FDA. FDA has begun taking steps to address some of these concerns, such as the establishment of overseas offices. This statement discusses (1) FDA's inspection of foreign drug manufacturing establishments, (2) the information FDA has on these establishments, and (3) recent FDA initiatives to improve its oversight of the supply chain.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11936t.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

Clean Water Act Section 401: Background and Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Claudia Copeland. August 30, 2011.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant for a federal license or permit provide a certification that any discharges from the facility will comply with the act, including water quality standard requirements. Disputes have arisen over the states' exercise of this authority in protecting water quality.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/97-488.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

The US Public Wants Disengagement. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. September 14, 2011.

The U.S. has periodically withdrawn into its isolationist shell, particularly after wars. While much of the world looks to the U.S. to exercise strong leadership, otherwise polarized opinion within the U.S. often finds common ground on at least one issue: expecting leaders to focus less attention on problems overseas. Recent surveys show the U.S. could be heading towards such an isolationist phase. Results of the German Marshall Fund 2011 Transatlantic Trends survey released today show that a majority of Republicans have joined Democrats in supporting troop reductions or withdrawals from

Afghanistan. Support for NATO among Democrats has risen in recent years, while Republicans express preference for a more independent approach. A majority of respondents also reported emerging Asia affects U.S. interests more than Europe does. China divides respondents: 66 percent of Republicans have an unfavorable view, and 58 percent of Democrats reported a positive view. With campaign rhetoric reflecting surly partisanship and isolationism, the U.S. could become a less reliable partner in foreign affairs. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-public-wants-disengagement> [HTML format, various paging].

How Successful Are U.S. Efforts to Build Capacity in Developing Countries? RAND Corporation. Jennifer D. P. Moroney et al. September 14, 2011.

The Global Train and Equip "1206" Program is a multiagency security cooperation program that supports U.S.-led capacity-building activities focused on counterterrorism and stability operations with foreign military partners. Interviews with policymakers and subject-matter experts, combined with a survey of program stakeholders, revealed some challenges and best approaches to establishing an assessment framework for 1206 Program projects. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2011RAND_TR1121.pdf [PDF format, 92 pages].

Religion Does Not Color Views About Violence. Gallup. Dalia Mogahed and Ahmed Younis. September 8, 2011.

A Gallup analysis of more than 130 countries nearly a decade after the 9/11 terrorist attacks suggests that one's religious identity and level of devotion have little to do with one's views about attacking civilians. Almost all residents surveyed in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa who reject attacks on civilians say religion is an important part of their daily lives -- much like those who say attacks are sometimes justified. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/149369/Religion-Not-Color-Views-Violence.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].

Postsecondary Institutions and Price of Attendance in the United States: 2010-11, Degrees and Other Awards Conferred: 2009-10, and 12-Month Enrollment: 2009-10. National Center for Education Statistics. September 15, 2011.

This First Look presents findings from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2010 data collection, which included three survey components: Institutional Characteristics for the 2010-11 academic year, Completions covering the period July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, and data on 12-Month Enrollment for the 2009-10 academic year. These data were collected through the IPEDS web-based data collection system.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011250.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages].

Does Health Insurance and Seeing the Doctor Keep You Out of the Hospital? American Enterprise Institute. Robert Kaestner and Anthony Lo Sasso. September 13, 2011.

The belief that health insurance and the increased use of primary care associated with it leads to fewer hospitalizations has played an important role in the recent health care reform debate. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Kaestner.pdf> [PDF format, 43 pages].

An Update to "Simulating the Effect of the 'Great Recession' on Poverty" Brookings Institution. Emily Monea and Isabel V. Sawhill. September 13, 2011.

According to the Census Bureau, 14.3 percent of Americans were living in poverty in 2009. For the past several years, the analysis was performed by simulating what would happen to the poverty rate over the next several years based on projections of the unemployment rate and the estimated relationship between the poverty rate and the unemployment rate. The bottom line of this analysis is that the recession is likely to have a dramatic impact on poverty over the next several years. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/0913_recession_poverty_monea_sawhill/0913_recession_poverty_monea_sawhill.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

Adapting, Transforming, and Modernizing Under Fire: The Mexican Military 2006-11. Strategic Studies Institute. Inigo Guevara Moyano. September 9, 2011.

Over the past 5 years, the Mexican armed forces have been used as the main tools of the government's national security policy. They have endured attacks from organized crime and criticism from the media and civil society, forcing them to transform, modernize, and adapt to better fulfil their responsibility of

protecting the Mexican state and its people. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1081> [HTML format with links].

Is the Safety Net Catching Unemployed Families? Urban Institute. Austin Nichols and Sheila R. Zedlewski. September 13, 2011.

The vast majority of unemployed families received some help from core safety net programs in 2009. Among those experiencing unemployment, receipt of unemployment benefits doubled between 2005 and 2009. Enrollment in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) also increased. Public Assistance played a limited role in unemployed families' lives. About 15 percent of low-work, unemployed families got no help from the safety net. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 clearly helped to strengthen the safety net. This extra help has mostly ended, leaving many families to contend with high unemployment and a frayed safety net. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412397-Is-the-Safety-Net-Catching-Unemployed-Families.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

China's Emergence in the World Economy and Business Cycles in Latin America. Inter-American Development Bank. Ambrogio Cesa-Bianchi et al. September 2011.

The paper investigates how changes in trade linkages between China, Latin America, and the rest of the world have altered the transmission of international business cycles to Latin America. Evidence based on a GVAR model for five large Latin American economies shows that the long-term impact of a China GDP shock on the typical Latin American economy has increased by three times since the mid-1990s, while the long-term impact of a US GDP shock has halved, while the transmission of shocks to Latin America and the rest of emerging Asia GDP (excluding China and India) has not changed. These changes owe more changes in China's impact on Latin America's traditional and largest trading partners than to increased direct bilateral trade linkages boosted by the decade-long commodity price boom. These findings have important implications for both Latin America and the international business cycle. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=36397788> [PDF format, 67 pages].

2010 International Religious Freedom Report. U.S. Department of State. September 13, 2011.

"As we look around the world, in fact, we see many countries where governments deny their people the most fundamental human rights: the right to believe according to their own conscience - including the freedom to not believe or not follow the religion favored by their government; the right to practice their religion freely, without risking discrimination, arrest, or violence; and the right to educate their children in their own religious traditions; and the freedom to express their beliefs." - Secretary Clinton

http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010_5/index.htm [HTML format with links].

High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLs:09): A First Look at Fall 2009 Ninth-Graders' Parents, Teachers, School Counselors, and School Administrators. National Center for Education Statistics. Web posted September 13, 2011.

The report features initial findings from the base year of a new longitudinal study that started with a nationally representative cohort of ninth-graders in the fall of 2009. This report focuses on the contextual data provided by students' parents and school staff. The analyses examine parents' educational expectations for their ninth-graders as well as savings for postsecondary education; teachers' preparation and experience; and school administrators' challenges in managing students' schools across students' socioeconomic and academic backgrounds.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011355.pdf> [PDF format, 59 pages].

The Gathering Eurozone Storm. Council on Foreign Relations. Christopher Alessi. September 13, 2011.

Investors and financial markets are growing convinced that Greece will default on its debt, heightening fears of a eurozone banking crisis that would have significant ramifications for an already fragile global economy. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/financial-crises/gathering-eurozone-storm/p25856> [HTML format, various paging].

Social Media and Disasters: Current Uses, Future Options, and Policy Considerations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Bruce R. Lindsay. September 6, 2011.

The development of new technologies that have emerged since the mid-1990s has led to Internet-based applications known as "social media" that enable people to interact and share information through media that were non-existent or widely unavailable 15 years ago. In the last five years social media have played an increasing role in emergencies and disasters.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R41987.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

Writing the Global Journey. YaleGlobal. Salil Tripathi. September 12, 2011.

The age-old quest for a better life, the ever-increasing speed of travel that forms the heart of globalization, has also transformed modern literature. London-based writer Salil Tripathi describes Amitav Ghosh and Salman Rushdie, both born in India and now living and celebrated in the West, as among the most successful authors in portraying an individual's ability to survive and adapt to a whirlwind of change. The two novelists view the world as their canvas. "Neither novelist actually uses the word 'globalization'; neither claims that all consequences of globalization are positive," Tripathi writes. Each global tableau describes societies' initial resistance to diversity and the inevitable shifts in power, rulemaking and wealth; each draws in readers from around the globe with narratives of human drama and visceral responses to injustices small or immense. The world is no longer segregated or static, Tripathi concludes, and neither is its great literature, constantly under test from time and those who cross borders. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/writing-global-journey> [HTML format, various paging].

Reducing the Impact of Children's Exposure to Violence. RAND Corporation. Lisa H. Jaycox et al. September 13, 2011.

RAND's evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches identified program successes and challenges in implementing programs for children exposed to violence. The evaluation results, though largely inconclusive, can inform similar efforts going forward. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/2011/RAND_RB9575.pdf [PDF format,

World Risk Report 2011. United Nations. September 2011.

Earthquakes, floods, droughts, storms: disasters seem to occur unexpectedly and with unimaginable force. But why do some countries better succeed than others to cope with extreme natural events? The World Risk Report 2011 helps to evaluate the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards. Using world maps to visualize, it shows on the one hand where the probability of a natural hazard to occur is particularly high; on the other hand it is shown in which countries the population can cope with these events especially good or bad. The central element of the World Risk Report, the concept of the World Risk Index, was developed by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn/Germany, in

cooperation with the Alliance Development Works and its partners. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/9018> [PDF format, 74 pages].

Redesigning State Government 2011. National Governors Association. September 6, 2011.

Since 2008, the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) has been reviewing state government redesign effort as states recover from the economic downturn. Some of these efforts have been described in other NGA publications, namely, *The Big Reset: State Government After the Great Recession* (February 2010) and again in *State Government Redesign Efforts 2009 and 2010* (October 2010). This brief provides an overview on state redesign efforts occurring in 2011, building on those two earlier publications, occurring in several areas: Health, Corrections, K-12 Education, Higher Education, Transportation and Infrastructure, State Workforce, Pensions and Benefits, and Downsizing and Streamlining. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1109REDESIGNINGSTATEGOVT.PDF> [PDF format, 25 pages].

Views of Parties' Ideologies: More Now See GOP as Very Conservative. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 12, 2011.

Though voters' views of the ideologies of the political parties have shifted little since the summer of 2010, an increasing number see the Republican Party as very conservative, while slightly fewer see the Democratic Party as very liberal. In 2010, somewhat more, on balance, viewed the Democratic Party as very liberal than said the GOP was very conservative (26% vs. 18%). Currently, nearly identical percentages view the Democratic Party as very liberal and the Republican Party as very conservative (22%, 23% respectively). [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/9-12-11%20Party%20Ideology_1.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Arab Uprisings: The State of the Egyptian Revolution. Project on Middle East Political Science. September 7, 2011.

Where is the Egyptian revolution today? Hosni Mubarak, his sons, and top former regime officials are on trial. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for November. Changes have swept the country at all levels. But people nevertheless feel despondent. The economy continues to struggle. Violence

in the Sinai rattles nerves. The [Supreme Council of the Armed Forces] remains inscrutable and unaccountable. And activists find themselves under pressure. The briefing lays out the best of the Middle East Channel's reporting and analysis from the last few months to show where Egypt has been and where it might be going. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/POMEPS_BriefBooklet6_Egypt_web.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

Education and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates. U.S. Bureau of Census. Tiffany Julian and Robert Kominski. September 8, 2011.

The education levels had more effect on earnings over a 40-year span in the workforce than any other demographic factor, such as gender, race and Hispanic origin. For example, a worker with a professional degree is expected to make more than a worker with a eighth grade education or lower.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Education, Demand, and Unemployment in Metropolitan America. Brookings Institution. Jonathan Rothwell and Alan Berube. September 2011.

Inadequate demand and inadequate education, relative to available occupations, are both hampering economic recovery in U.S. metropolitan areas. With a still weakened private sector, strategic public investment and regional economic diversification can help address the first problem. Yet even when the economy recovers, longer-term "structural unemployment" will linger in some metropolitan areas because of mismatches between the supply of, and demand for, educated workers. Solutions to that problem include boosting educational attainment, enhancing the skills of workers, and increasing demand for less educated workers by providing public goods needed by industries like manufacturing and the "green" economy. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0909_skills_unemployment_rothwell/0909_skills_unemployment_rothwell.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

Argentina's Housing Market in the 2000s. Inter-American Development Bank. Marcela Cristini et al. September 2011.

In the last three decades, the supply of housing in Argentina has not kept pace with demand. The study analyzes the main drivers of Argentina's housing market and relates them to the macroeconomic environment in order

to advance a policy agenda for housing policy reform. The demand for housing was calculated and tenure choice was analyzed. Structural characteristics affecting Argentina's housing market include the high concentration of the urban population in a few large metropolitan areas, the association of urban poverty with the housing deficit, and overcrowding. The mortgage market lost its appeal following the 2001-02 crisis due to widespread breaches of contract legitimized through protective legislation (still in place), insufficient long-term financing, and high inflation. The housing deficit could be eliminated in five to eight years if well-coordinated policy initiatives to develop the mortgage market and provide low-income housing were adopted under a decentralized, demand-driven, subsidized program. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=36383741> [PDF format, 82 pages].

Why Are Many Emergency Departments in the United States Closing? RAND Corporation. Renee Y. Hsia et al. September 9, 2011.

Between 1990 and 2009, the number of emergency rooms (ERs) in nonrural U.S. hospitals declined by 27 percent (from 2,446 to 1,779). Economic factors play a central role in an ER's ability to remain open. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/2011/RAND_RB9607.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Nordic-Baltic Security in the 21st Century: The Regional Agenda and the Global Role. Atlantic Council. Robert Nurick and Magnus Nordenman, Eds. September 7, 2011.

The report is a compendium of issue briefs on a range of topics related to Nordic-Baltic security, including NATO's role in the region, energy security, and how the region can play a larger role in the transatlantic community in concert with the United States, NATO, and the EU. It provides an overview of the current state of security in the region, as well as actionable policy advice on how to further deepen regional collaboration on security, defense, and foreign policy. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/090711_ACUS_NordicBaltic.PDF [PDF format, 80 pages].

The 9/11 Generation: How 9/11 Shaped the Millennial Generation. Center for American Progress. Eleni Towns. September 8, 2011.

Eleni Towns examines how the Millennial generation was affected by 9/11. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/911_generation.html [HTML format, various paging].

Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Security Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Paul K. Kerr and Mary Beth Nikitin. August 29, 2011.

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal probably consists of approximately 90-110 nuclear warheads, although it could be larger. Islamabad is producing fissile material, adding to related production facilities, and deploying additional delivery vehicles. While U.S. and Pakistani officials continue to express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, continued instability in the country could impact these safeguards.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL34248.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Earthquakes: Risk, Detection, Warning, and Research. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Peter Folger. August 24, 2011.

The U.S. faces the possibility of large economic losses from earthquake-damaged buildings and infrastructure. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has estimated that earthquakes cost the U.S., on average, over \$5 billion per year. An issue for the 112th Congress is whether existing federally supported programs aimed at reducing U.S. vulnerability to earthquakes are an adequate response to the earthquake hazard.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33861.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Agricultural Sector Review. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. September 2011.

The agricultural sector affects the climate system in four distinct, but interrelated, ways. The report outlines and explores them. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/AgriculturalSectorOverview.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

The Global Fund's Malaria Medicine Subsidy: A Nice Idea with Nasty Implications. American Enterprise Institute. Roger Bate et al. September 8, 2011.

According to the study, the private sector can and should play an important role in public health, but it remains to be seen whether or not the benefits that have arisen from the AMFm could have been achieved through alternative mechanisms and potentially at lower cost. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/AMFmPolicyPaper.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

Household Food Security in the United States in 2010. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Alisha Coleman-Jensen et al. September 7, 2011.

An estimated 85.5 percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2010, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (14.5 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.4 percent with very low food security, meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food. The prevalence rate of very low food security declined from 5.7 percent in 2009, while the change in food insecurity overall (from 14.7 percent in 2009) was not statistically significant. The typical food-secure household spent 27 percent more on food than the typical food-insecure household of the same size and household composition. Fifty-nine percent of all food-insecure households participated in one or more of the three largest Federal food and nutrition assistance programs during the month prior to the 2010 survey.

<http://www.era.usda.gov/Publications/ERR125/ERR125.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Nuclear Nonproliferation: U.S. Agencies Have Limited Ability to Account for, Monitor, and Evaluate the Security of U.S. Nuclear Material Overseas. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 8, 2011.

GAO suggests, among other things, that Congress consider directing DOE and NRC to compile an inventory of U.S. nuclear material overseas. DOE, NRC, and State generally disagreed with GAO's recommendations, including that they conduct annual inventory reconciliations with all partners, stating they were unnecessary. GAO continues to believe that its recommendations could help improve the accountability of U.S. nuclear material in foreign countries.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11920.pdf> [PDF format, 68 pages].

Confronting an Uncertain Threat. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Rick "Ozzie" Nelson and Thomas M. Sanderson. September 7, 2011.

Al Qaeda and associated movements (AQAM) have become an increasingly diffuse security threat. Although the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderlands may have represented the epicenter of global terrorism in the past decade, al Qaeda's various regional affiliates are growing in prominence. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110826_Nelson_%20ConfrontingAnUncertainThreat_Web.pdf [PDF format, 80 pages].

Ten Years After 9/11 - A World of Change. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Jessica Tuchman Mathews et al. September 8, 2011.

One year after 9/11, seventeen Carnegie experts assessed the significance of the attacks and their aftermath. Ten years after 9/11, the same Carnegie experts revisit their original findings and analyze the impact of the historic moment. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2011/09/08/ten-years-after-9-11-world-of-change/51k9> [HTML format with a link].

The American Public on the 9/11 Decade: A Study of American Public Opinion. Anwar Sadat Chair, University of Maryland and Brookings Institution. Steven Kull and Shibley Telhami. September 8, 2011.

Six in ten Americans believe that the United States weakened its economy by overspending in its responses to the 9/11 attacks. In particular, respondents felt this was especially true of the U.S. mission in Iraq. Two out of three Americans perceive that over the decade since 9/11, U.S. power and influence in the world has declined. This view is highly correlated with the belief that the U.S. overspent in its post-9/11 response efforts - the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 9/11, American views of Islam have grown more negative. However, views of Arab and Muslim people are moderately warm, and majorities continue to feel that the attacks of 9/11 do not represent mainstream thinking within Islam and that it is possible to find common ground between Islam and the West. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/0908_opinion_poll_telhami/0908_opinion_poll_telhami.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

From Hyperpower to Declining Power: Changing Global Perceptions of the U.S. in the Post-Sept. 11 Era. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Richard Wike. September 7, 2011.

Early in the post-Sept. 11 era, the projection of American military strength led to pervasive fears of an unleashed, and unchecked, hyperpower. More recently, however, the global financial crisis has turned the spotlight to America's declining economic prowess and perceptions of a great power in decline. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/09/07/from-hyperpower-to-declining-power/?src=prc-headline> [HTML format, various paging].

The World After 9/11 - Part I. YaleGlobal. Bruce Riedel. September 6, 2011.

Ten years ago, a small group of men launched unprecedented terrorist attacks on icons of American power. The dramatic attack by Al Qaeda ushered in an era of seemingly unending war between organized states and shadowy groups. The report examines the continuing reverberations from the 9/11 attacks, which lured the U.S. into long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The U.S. has successfully foiled attacks since, but Al Qaeda remains intent on igniting global war to establish an Islamic caliphate, warns Bruce Riedel. A key caliphate link would be South Asia. Despite many attempts, Al Qaeda and the Pakistani group Lashkar-e-Taiba have failed to bait India into war with Pakistan. The extremists keep plotting, hoping to ignite reckless conflicts between the U.S. and Iran, Egypt and Israel. Fortunately, the extremism appalls most Muslims, and most state leaders detect the traps. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/world-after-911-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

The World After 9/11 - Part II. YaleGlobal. Stephen Tankel. September 8, 2011.

Al Qaeda made its mark by the dramatic 9/11 attacks, but it's not alone in developing transnational networks striving for global jihad. The report analyzes the goals of Lashkar-e-Taiba, or LeT, based in Pakistan. LeT's initial goal, the liberation of Kashmir from India, was developed with support from the Pakistan military and intelligence services, explains author Stephen Tankel. LeT expanded its reach to mount attacks against India, recruiting disgruntled Muslims of India, Bangladesh and Nepal, even in host countries like Saudi Arabia and the UK. Before long, global jihadists pressured LeT's leaders to expand beyond India. Thus, LeT orchestrated the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, targeting places popular among Western visitors. Pakistan may have created a Frankenstein's monster: Any attempt to dismantle LeT by Islamabad could provoke a backlash, unleashing operatives' fury in India, Pakistan and beyond. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/world-after-911-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Return of the Eurozone Crisis. Council on Foreign Relations. Christopher Alessi. September 7, 2011.

Sharp new fears of an escalation in eurozone debt troubles have intensified debate over whether to spur fiscal integration or risk a wider crisis with serious consequences for U.S. financial markets, experts say. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cfr.org/financial-crises/return-eurozone-crisis/p25769> [HTML format, various paging].

The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012. World Economic Forum. September 2011.

The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012, comes out amid multiple challenges to the global economy and a continuing shift in the balance of economic activity away from advanced economies and toward emerging markets. Policymakers are struggling to find ways to manage the present economic challenges while preparing their economies to perform well in an increasingly complex global landscape and the report offers a unique tool in addressing some key issues. This year's report findings show that Switzerland tops the overall rankings. Singapore overtakes Sweden for second position. Northern and Western European countries dominate the top 10 with Sweden (3rd), Finland (4th), Germany (6th), the Netherlands (7th), Denmark (8th) and the United Kingdom (10th). Japan remains the second-ranked Asian economy at 9th place, despite falling three places since last year.

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GCR_Report_2011-12.pdf [PDF format, 544 pages].

Adult Smoking in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. September 6, 2011.

Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the US. Some people who smoke every day are smoking fewer cigarettes; however, even occasional smoking causes harm. The percentage of American adults who smoke decreased from 20.9% in 2005 to 19.3% in 2010, about 3 million fewer smokers. But almost 1 in 5 adults still smoke. Reducing tobacco use is a winnable battle--a public health priority with known, effective actions for success.

<http://www.cdc.gov/VitalSigns/pdf/2011-09-vitalsigns.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

Bureau of Prisons: Improved Evaluations and Increased Coordination Could Improve Cell Phone Detection. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 6, 2011.

Bureau of Prison's rates for inmate telephone calls typically are lower than selected state and military branch systems that also use telephone revenues to support inmate activities; lowering rates would have several implications. Inmates would benefit from the ability to make cheaper phone calls, but lower rates could result in less revenue and lower profits, and therefore fewer funds available for inmate wages and recreational activities. According to BOP officials, when inmates have fewer opportunities for physical activity, idleness increases, and the risk of violence, escapes, and other disruptions also rises. BOP and selected states confiscated thousands of cell phones in 2010, and these entities believe that rising inmate cell phone use threatens institutional safety and expands criminal activity. To help BOP respond more effectively to contraband cell phone challenges, the Attorney General should direct the BOP Director to direct BOP's Office of Security Technology (OST) to formulate evaluation plans that both support a consistent approach to testing cell phone detection technologies and strengthen decisions about deploying cell phone detection projects. Such plans should include key characteristics of successful evaluation methods, such as defining measurable objectives and including a detailed data analysis plan. The plans should also clearly define evaluation-related responsibilities for the individuals conducting the test at each institution.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11893.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

Russian Soft Power in the 21st Century. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Heather A. Conley and Theodore P. Gerber. September 6, 2011.

The study examines the current state of relations among Russia, Estonia, and ethnic Russians living in Estonia. It pays special attention to the Russian Compatriot Policy, which seeks to codify the relationship of the Russian diaspora to its homeland, and to evaluate its effectiveness as a soft power foreign policy tool in Estonia. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110826_Conley_RussianSoftPower_Web.pdf [PDF format, 58 pages].

Stop Enabling Pakistan's Dangerous Dysfunction. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. George Perkovich. September 6, 2011.

Because the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan means that Washington will be less dependent on Pakistani supply lines, it presents a rare opportunity to reconsider American policies and practices in Pakistan, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/pakistan_dysfuntion.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Country Analysis Briefs: United Kingdom. U.S. Energy Information Administration. September 2011.

The United Kingdom (U.K.) is the largest producer of oil and second-largest producer of natural gas in the European Union (E.U.). After years of being a net exporter of both fuels, the U.K. became a net importer of natural gas and crude oil in 2004 and 2005, respectively. Production from U.K. oil and natural gas fields peaked in the late 1990s and has declined steadily over the past several years, as the discovery of new reserves has not kept pace with the maturation of existing fields. The U.K. government, aware of the country's increasing reliance on imported fuels, has developed key energy policies to address the domestic production declines. These include: enhanced recovery from current and maturing oil and gas fields, ensuring energy security, promoting cooperation with Norway, and decarbonizing the U.K. economy by investing heavily in renewable energy.

http://www.eia.gov/EMEU/cabs/United_Kingdom/pdf.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages].

Country Analysis Briefs: Ecuador. U.S. Energy Information Administration. September 2011.

Ecuador is one of Latin America's largest oil exporters, with net oil exports estimated at 285,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) in 2010. The oil sector accounts for about 50 percent of Ecuador's export earnings and about one-third of all tax revenues. Despite being an oil exporter, Ecuador must still import refined petroleum products due to the lack of sufficient domestic refining capacity to meet local demand. As a result, the country does not always enjoy the full benefits of high world oil prices: while these high prices bring Ecuador greater export revenues, they also increase the country's refined product import bill.

<http://www.eia.gov/EMEU/cabs/Ecuador/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

European Parliament Should Back EU-U.S. Passenger Name Record Agreement. The Heritage Foundation. Sally McNamara. September 6, 2011.

The EU-U.S. passenger name record (PNR) agreement, implemented in the wake of 9/11, is an information-sharing program requiring that key pieces of data on travelers to the U.S. be provided to American authorities prior to their arrival in the U.S. This information must be provided under U.S. law, and in May 2004, the EU and the U.S. entered into a formal agreement stating that airlines operating U.S.-bound flights would provide U.S. authorities with travelers' data contained in their reservation systems before a flight's departure. The author urges that the U.S. must remain vigilant against terrorism. Since 9/11, there have been *at least* 39 foiled plots against the U.S., which Heritage Foundation analysts claim is a result of enhanced information sharing and intelligence gathering. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/09/EU-US-Passenger-Name-Records-and-the-European-Parliament> [HTML format, various paging].

The Commanders Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan: Refining U.S. Military Capabilities in Stability and In-Conflict Development Activities. Center for Global Development. Gregory Johnson et al. September 6, 2011.

The U.S. military has become substantially engaged in the development and stabilization space and will likely continue to operate in this space for some time to come. The paper proposes five policy changes for the military to improve its development activities. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425397/> [HTML format with links].

Investing in Education Powers U.S. Competitiveness. Center for American Progress. Diana Epstein. September 6, 2011.

Education is the key to American competitiveness and a strong economy, and continued federal investment in education is needed in order to support improvements in student achievement and put our economy on the path to sustained growth. The U.S. suffers from persistent differences in achievement between groups of students defined by race/ethnicity or family income, and students also rank well behind those in economically competitive countries on international tests. According to the report, the U.S. must continue to invest in education in order to create a system that is more equitable and that produces American students who are more competitive in the global marketplace for talent. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/education_competitiveness.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

What It Means to be an American: Attitudes in an Increasingly Diverse America Ten Years after 9/11. Brookings Institution. E. J. Dionne and William A. Galston. September 6, 2011.

Post-9/11, Americans continue to struggle with what it means to be American and how to resolve political, religious and ethnic differences in an increasingly diverse country. The report delivers new data on Americans' attitudes toward Islam, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment, issues of national security, and the role of religion and religious leaders in U.S. politics. The survey also measures the impact of growing ethnic and religious diversity on current American identity, politics and culture. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/0906_american_attitudes/0906_american_attitudes.pdf [PDF format, 45 pages].

More U.S. Workers Unhappy With Health Benefits, Promotions. Gallup. Lymari Morales. September 5, 2011

U.S. workers are more dissatisfied today with their health insurance benefits and their chances for promotion than they were before the global economic collapse. These are the biggest movers since August 2008 on a list of 13 specific job aspects Gallup tracks. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/149324/Workers-Unhappy-Health-Benefits-Promotions.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].

28% of American Adults Use Mobile and Social Location-Based Services. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kathryn Zickuhr and Aaron Smith. September 6, 2011.

55% of smartphone owners use their phones to get location-based directions or recommendations, while geosocial services and location-tagging features are less popular. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/PIP_Location-based-services.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

Baltic Sea Scorecard 2011. World Wildlife Fund. September 2, 2011.

The report that assesses how good the countries around the Baltic Sea are at implementing environmental measures and agreements. The total score for the region was an F, indicating a failure to take the needed actions. Only Sweden and Germany came out slightly better with a C grade. The most problematic areas are the fight against eutrophication and the protection of biodiversity. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/?201517/WWF-Baltic-Sea-Scorecard-2011-Report [HTML format with a link to a PDF file, 32 pages].

Missing Data in Value-Added Modeling of Teacher Effects. RAND Corporation. Daniel F. McCaffrey and J.R. Lockwood. September 6, 2011.

The increasing availability of longitudinal student achievement data has heightened interest among researchers, educators, and policymakers in using these data to evaluate educational inputs, as well as for school and possibly teacher accountability. Researchers have developed elaborate "value-added models" of these longitudinal data to estimate the effects of educational inputs (e.g., teachers and schools) on student achievement while using prior achievement to adjust for nonrandom assignment of students to schools and classes. A challenge to such modeling efforts is the extensive numbers of students with incomplete records and the tendency for those students to be lower-achieving. The report finds that allowing the data to be missing not at random has little impact on estimated teacher effects. The robustness of estimated teacher effects to the missing data assumption appears to result from both the relatively small impact of model specification on estimated student effects compared with the large variability in teacher effects and the downweighting of scores from students with incomplete data. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/reprints/2011/RAND_RP1430.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Threat of Militancy in Nigeria. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Alex Thurston. September 1, 2011.

The suicide bombing carried out by Boko Haram at the United Nations building in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, marked a growing internationalization of the activities of the Muslim militant sect based in Nigeria's northeast. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2011/09/01/threat-of-militancy-in-nigeria/4yk8> [HTML format, various paging].

Extending Libya's Transitional Period: Capitalizing on the Constitutional Moment. U.S. Institute of Peace. Jason Gluck. September 2011.

The brief examines the timeline for constitutional reform in Libya's August 2011 Constitutional Declaration with an eye towards ensuring Libyans have sufficient time to negotiate and draft a new constitution that will support

Libya's transformation towards constitutional democracy. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB104.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

Cutting Carbon Costs: Learning from Germany's Energy Saving Program. Brookings Institution. Anne Power and Monika Zulauf. September 2011.

Energy shortages, unpredictable and high energy prices, waste, pollution, and fears of climate change all drive a sense of urgency in the West about reducing its energy dependence on unreliable sources. Europe imports over half its total energy from volatile producers around the globe. While the U.S. is able to meet somewhat more of its energy demand from domestic sources, its per capita energy consumption level is twice that of Europe's. Germany is leading the way in developing "green" technologies and has the most ambitious energy-saving program in Europe, aiming for a 30 percent reduction in energy usage by 2020, and a 30-percent renewable energy share, consisting mainly of biomass, wind, and solar. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0902_germany_energy_power_zulauf/0902_energy_power_zulauf.pdf [PDF format, 105 pages].

Getting the Caucasus Emirate Right. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Gordon M. Hahn. Web posted September 1, 2011.

"Allah willing, all of the brothers, who are carrying out Jihad in the entire world, are our brothers for the sake of Allah, and we all today are going on one road and this road leads to Paradise." These are not the words of al Qaeda's Osama bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, or even the Taliban's Mullah Omar. They are the words of Dokku Umarov or, by his nom de guerre, Abu Usman, the amir of the mujahideen of Russia's North Caucasus. As straightforward and clear as Umarov's statement is, this and identical assertions of his and numerous other CE amirs have made little impression on Western, especially American, discussions. The report aims demonstrates the veracity of vitally important facts usually obfuscated in discussions of the subject. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/publication/110829_Hahn_GettingCaucasusEmirateRt_Web.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Improving Job Quality: Direct Care Workers in the U.S. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Eileen Appelbaum and Carrie Leana. September 2, 2011.

The paper looks at strategies for improving job quality in the care work sector. American and British policy makers need to stop treating care as low-paid "women's work" that is incidental to a family's income, according to the authors. Social care is a growth sector and must be considered alongside green jobs and infrastructure investment when it comes to developing industrial and economic policy. Beyond public sector investment, as this paper shows, better jobs will come from a steady focus on three priorities: improving employer practice, appropriate regulation and workforce organizing. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/care-work-09-2011.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

Mitigating Corruption in Government Security Forces: The Role of Institutions, Incentives, and Personnel Management in Mexico. RAND Corporation. Beth J. Asch et al. September 2, 2011.

Mexico has undertaken reforms in recent years to professionalize its police. The report draws on the literature on corruption and personnel incentives and analyzes police reform in Mexico. It addresses the roots of corruption and the tools that could be used to mitigate it and provides an initial assessment of the reforms' effectiveness. The results suggest some progress, though police corruption still remains high and more work is needed. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2011/RAND_TR906.pdf [PDF format, 88 pages].

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade. U.S. Department of Agriculture. August 31, 2011.

Fiscal 2012 agricultural exports are projected at \$137 billion, the same as the 2011 forecast. Horticultural products are projected to increase sharply in fiscal 2012, due to strong demand from Canada, Europe, and Japan. The forecast for 2012 imports is \$105 billion, 11 percent higher than 2011. Given that the forecast for exports is unchanged while imports are rising, the trade balance for 2012 is a surplus of \$32 billion, which would be the third highest ever.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AES/AES-08-31-2011.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

A Green Bank Is the Right Tool for Jobs: Recommendations for Setting Up a Clean Energy Finance Entity. Center for American Progress. Richard W. Caperton and Bracken Hendricks. September 2, 2011.

Over the next 10 years the United States. needs to move from a fossil-fuel-based economy to one powered by clean, domestic energy, according to the authors. Navigating this transition will require hundreds of billions of dollars in new capital investment from both public and private sources. The United States also need to reverse the current jobs crisis in a time of tight federal budgets and financial austerity. The solution is a Green Bank, which is the right tool to unlock private capital investment to renew America's energy infrastructure and create jobs, contends the authors. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/green_bank.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

Learning from Libya: The Right Lessons for NATO. Atlantic Council. Damon Wilson. September 1, 2011.

"While NATO's 'Operation Unified Protector' has revealed strains within the Alliance and foreshadows future challenges, the Libya operation is a great success." That is the conclusion of Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson in his Strategic Advisors Group issue brief, released as leaders of the Transitional National Council meet in Paris with leading diplomats from around the world to discuss a post-Qaddafi Libya. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/090111_ACUS_LearningLibya_Wilson.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

Gender and Property Rights. Urban Institute. Carol Rabenhorts and Anjali Bean. August 31, 2011.

Gender equality in property rights is a critical human rights issue and a key driver of overall economic development. The paper explores three issues in international development which are not often considered together or in terms of how they relate to each other. These issues are: (1) The rights of women to participate in property use and ownership with full legal and societal protection; (2) the importance to economic development of property rights in urban areas; and (3) the role of women in economic development. The final section offers recommendations for more effective development programming and implementation through the integration of these issues. *[Note: contains copyrighted material]*.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412387-gender-and-property-rights.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Limiting Future Collision Risk to Spacecraft: An Assessment of NASA's Meteoroid and Orbital Debris Programs. National Research Council. September 1, 2011.

Although NASA's meteoroid and orbital debris programs have responsibly used their resources, the agency's management structure has not kept pace with increasing hazards posed by abandoned equipment, spent rocket bodies, and other debris orbiting the Earth, says the report. NASA should develop a formal strategic plan to better allocate resources devoted to the management of orbital debris. In addition, removal of debris from the space environment or other actions to mitigate risks may be necessary. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13244 [HTML format with links].

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/xpeditio/groups/depssite/documents/webpage/deps_064361.pdf Report in Brief [PDF format, 4 pages].

The Global Regime for Terrorism. Council on Foreign Relations. August 31, 2011.

September 11, 2001, shocked the international system, changing global perspectives on both the threat of terrorism and the tools required to prevent it. Although multilateral instruments against terrorism have existed since the 1960s, the unprecedented reach and potential of terrorist networks such as al-Qaeda and its affiliates constitute a new danger that challenges standing tools and institutions. Despite the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in May 2011, the world is still, a decade after September 11, looking for an effective way to respond to the global terrorist threat. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.cfr.org/asia/global-regime-terrorism/p25729?cid=rss-analysisbriefbackgroundersexp-the_global_regime_for_terrorism-083111 [HTML format, various paging].

Expanded Learning Opportunities: A More Comprehensive Approach to Preparing High School Students for College and a Career. Alliance for Excellent Education. August 31, 2011.

The future of the American economy increasingly depends on more students graduating from high school ready for college and a career. Long-standing trends in the nation's dropout rate and achievement gap demonstrate that the American education system needs to better prepare students to meet postsecondary and career demands. While momentum is building to expand learning time for students to help meet these challenges, most efforts have

been focused on elementary and middle school students. The brief explores how expanding the learning opportunities of high school students, to provide flexibility regarding time, location, and delivery methods as well as opportunities to apply knowledge in real-world situations and access social and academic supports, can be used to change the projected skill and knowledge shortages in the nation's workforce. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/ExpandedLearningOpps.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

National Security Reform 2010: A Midterm Assessment. Strategic Studies Institute. Joseph R. Cerami et al. August 31, 2011.

On April 22, 2010, the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute co-sponsored a colloquium in Washington, DC, on a midterm assessment of leadership and national security reform in the Obama administration. The colloquium theme focused on the need for advancing the research and study of national security reform by engaging the invited participants to share their expertise on ways to develop a deeper awareness and understanding of the reform issues facing the U.S. Government. Three panels of national security experts discussed: "Assessing National Security Reform"; "Legislative Imperatives"; and, "Assessing National Security Reform-The Way Forward."

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1080> [HTML format with links].

Addressing Japan's Healthcare Challenges with Information Technology. Center for Strategic & International Studies and Health and Global Policy Institute. John D. Halamka. August 30, 2011.

Japan is facing the long-term policy challenge of an aging society, which requires increasing amounts of healthcare, both high acuity care and long-term chronic care. This need for additional health services in the face of significant national budget deficits, with a national debt approaching 200 percent of GDP, suggests the need to identify and implement new efficiencies in health care services. Many countries are increasing investments in healthcare information technology (IT) on a national basis to increase efficiency of services, while improving the quality and safety of care. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110830_Halamka_AddressJapanHealthcare_Web.pdf [PDF format, 22 pages].

Incentive Proliferation? Making Sense of a New Wave of Development Programs. Center for Global Development. William Savedoff. August 31, 2011.

According to the report, a new wave of development programs that explicitly use incentives to achieve their aims is under way. They are part of a trend, accelerating in recent years, to disburse development assistance against specific and measurable outputs or outcomes. With a proliferation of new ideas under names such as "payments for performance," "output-based aid," and "results based financing," it is easy to lose sight of basic underlying similarities in these approaches and to miss some significant differences. The paper proposes a way of classifying and distinguishing the range of incentive programs being debated today, emphasizing two particular dimensions: the agent whose behavior the incentive seeks to change and the specificity of the output or outcome measure. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425405/> [HTML format with links].

Asian Alliances in the 21st Century. American Enterprise Institute. Dan Blumenthal et al. August 30, 2011.

Asia will become the epicenter of geopolitical activity in the 21st century and the budding U.S.-China security rivalry, conditioned by deep economic interdependence, will shape the region's future. The U.S. has played a major role in this ongoing geopolitical shift. Washington's post-World War II Asia policy enabled a majority of Asian nations to economically develop and transition from closed to relatively open and stable societies. Asian countries achieved these goals by embracing the "liberal order," characterized by democratic capitalism, built and maintained by the U.S., according to the authors. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Asian-Alliances-21st-Century.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

India's Anti-Corruption Movement Wins - For Now. YaleGlobal. Ashok Malik. September 1, 2011.

Anna Hazare organized his public fast in New Delhi to strengthen anti-corruption legislation that was already winding its way through India's parliament. Widespread public support, in particular among the middle class and youth, attracted immediate global attention and stunned India's political establishment. After 12 days, the government capitulated, and Hazare ended the fast. But India's politicians could find themselves facing public anger anew if battles on corruption disrupt economic progress, cautions Ashok Malik. One

consideration is that India's rates of growth and foreign direct investment have slacked off in recent months. Competing politics of grievance and additional layers of bureaucracy could complicate economic reforms and widen any disconnect between Hazare's goals and the ambitions of his young supporters. Over the course of a few decades, economic expansion in industries like telecommunications delivered efficiencies and prosperity. Malik concludes that politics must keep pace with economic reform and citizen aspirations. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/indias-anti-corruption-movement-wins-now> [HTML format, various paging].

The Green Climate Fund: Options for Mobilizing the Private Sector. Brookings Institution. Katherine Sierra. Web posted August 30, 2011.

The private sector is a critical player in moving to a climate compatible future, according to the report. To have a chance at maintaining the climate at 2 degrees over pre-industrial levels, economies will need to transform. This implies significant investment in both mitigation and adaptation to help move countries onto climate compatible pathways. The public sector has a critical role in setting goals, building the enabling environment, and investing in research, development and public infrastructure in ways that support the transition. But businesses, households and the capital markets that fund them will be responsible for the bulk of the investment needed. Developing countries are looking to use the momentum coming from their low-emission development and resilience strategies to create new businesses and jobs. Private sector investment in climate compatible development does bring economic development opportunities, but it also requires sufficient access to finance. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0830_green_climate_fund_sierra/0830_green_climate_fund_sierra.pdf [PDF format, 22 pages].

Time for a Big Push on Infrastructure in Africa: What the G-20 Can Do. Brookings Institution. Homi Kharas and Katherine Sierra. August 31, 2011.

The Seoul G-20 Multi-Year Action Plan on Development identified gaps in infrastructure as a key bottleneck to growth in developing countries. It committed the G-20 countries to overcoming obstacles to infrastructure investment, developing project pipelines, improving capacity and facilitating finance, in particular for low-income countries. Estimates of total infrastructure financing needs in developing countries amount to over \$1.2 trillion per year, with \$93 billion for sub-Saharan Africa alone. What the G-20 decides to do on infrastructure will be a critical test of whether it can amount to more than a talkshop, say the authors. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/08_africa_infrastructure_kharas_sierra/08_africa_infrastructure_kharas_sierra.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages].

Tenth Anniversary Report Card: The Status of 9/11 Commission Recommendations. National Security Preparedness Group, Bipartisan Policy Center. September 2011.

Nearly one week before the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) released a report card, which highlights nine of the 41 recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission in July 2004 that remain unfinished. The report was authored by BPC's National Security Preparedness Group, under the leadership of former 9/11 Commission Chair Tom Kean and Vice Chair Lee Hamilton. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/CommissionRecommendations.pdf> Report [PDF format, 24 pages].

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/911ReportCard.pdf> Report Card [PDF format, 1 page].

Transforming Wartime Contracting: Controlling Costs, Reducing Risks. Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. August 31, 2011.

The final report of the congressionally chartered Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan says at least \$31 billion has been lost to contract waste and fraud, and that major reforms are required. Commission reform objectives include improving federal planning for use of contracts, strengthening contract management and oversight, expanding competition, improving interagency coordination, and modifying or cancelling U.S.-funded projects that host nations cannot sustain. The reforms are described in 15 strategic recommendations.

http://www.wartimecontracting.gov/docs/CWC_FinalReport-highres.pdf [PDF format, 248 pages].

Food Insecurity Among Older Adults. AARP Foundation. James P. Ziliak and Craig Gundersen. August 2011.

Reducing hunger risk among older Americans requires a concerted policy effort that is informed by rigorous research on the extent, causes, and consequences of food insecurity. The report provides a comprehensive

portrait of the causes and consequences of food insecurity among adults age 50-59 in comparison to those in their 40s and those 60 and older. The report emphasizes the 50-59 age cohort in part because they do not have access to an age-specific safety net like older Americans (or some younger ones), take-up rates in food assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) are low, and the scaring effects of job loss can be more severe. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/aarp_foundation/pdf_2011/AARPFoundation_HungerReport_2011.pdf [PDF format, 162 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Brown, Lester THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF FOOD (Foreign Policy, no. 186, May/June 2011, pp. 54-63)

In this issue of FP magazine devoted to food, the author, president of the Earth Policy Institute, notes that rising global prices for staples do not affect those in the Western industrialized countries as much as they do in developing countries. For Americans, who spend less than one-tenth of their income in the supermarket, the soaring food prices are an annoyance, not a calamity. But for the planet's poorest 2 billion people, who spend 50%-70% of their income on food, rising prices may mean going from two meals a day to one. From the Middle East to Madagascar, high prices are spawning land grabs and ousting dictators. Brown says that's why the food crisis of 2011 is for real, and why it may bring with it yet more bread riots and revolutions. The result is a world that looks strikingly different from the bountiful global grain economy of the last century. Farmers now face increasing pressure of population growth; each year 80 million additional people must be fed, nearly all of them in developing countries. Currently available online at

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_new_geopolitics_of_food

Mann, Charles C. THE DAWN OF THE HOMOGENOCENE (Orion, May/June 2011)

The author traces globalization to the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492 and the establishment of the first stable colonies in the New World. Successive waves of explorers and settlers brought with them flora, fauna and pathogens that existed in Eurasia, but until that time were unknown in the Western Hemisphere. The world's ecosystems mixed as species were carried in treasure-seeking expeditions across the ocean in a phenomenon called the Columbian Exchange by historian Alfred W. Crosby. This brought death to inhabitants and destruction of native species. It also began the creation of the Homogenocene, a world ecosystem of sameness, which is also mirrored today economically by international corporations: "In the Homogenocene, Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's, and Pizza Hut are always just minutes away." Currently available online at <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6250/>

Mooney, Chris THE SCIENCE OF WHY WE DON'T BELIEVE SCIENCE (Mother Jones, May/June 2011, pp. 27-32)

Mooney, a science correspondent for *The American Prospect*, describes a number of psychological studies in which participants reject new scientific information based on long-held beliefs. "Motivated reasoning" (reasoning suffused with emotion) causes a subject to push away threatening information. There is a "confirmation bias" -- we give greater heed to evidence that bolsters our beliefs; and a "disconfirmation bias" -- we try to debunk arguments that we don't agree with. These "flight-or-fight" reflexes to uncomfortable information "are not well-adapted to our information age," according to the University of Michigan researcher Arthur Lupia. Mooney writes that "if you want someone to accept new evidence, make sure to present it to them in a context that doesn't trigger a defensive, emotional response." Available online at <http://motherjones.com/politics/2011/03/denial-science-chris-mooney>

Tenner, Edward THE OTHER GLOBAL TOXIC CLOUD: CHINA'S POLLUTION (The Atlantic, March 18, 2011)

Many people in North America are worried about the drifting fallout from the Japanese nuclear reactor catastrophe, but the health risks are small compared to the mercury and other pollutants China's manufacturing and power generation are pumping into the air, writes Tenner, historian and founding advisor of the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center. Some of this atmospheric pollution settles into the waters of the North Pacific, but much of it eventually merges with the global air pollution pool that circumnavigates the planet and can reach North America within days. These contaminants are implicated in a long list of health problems, and although China is taking positive environmental steps, the momentum of its growth threatens to swamp them: China now emits more mercury than the United States, India and Europe combined. Pollution knows no boundaries: the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that just one-quarter of U.S. mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants are deposited within the U.S. itself, and the remainder enters the global cycle. Conversely, current estimates are that less than half of all mercury deposition within the United States comes from American sources. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/03/the-other-global-toxic-cloud-chinas-pollution/72722/>

Wagner, Eric LIVING ON THE EDGE (Smithsonian, vol. 42, no. 1, April 2011, pp. 54-59)

Despite being at war, North and South Korea are collaborating to save one of the world's most endangered bird species, the red-crowned crane, which is flourishing in the most unlikely place -- the demilitarized zone between North and South. With massive military might arrayed on both sides, the DMZ has nonetheless emerged as a refuge for many threatened species, and is one of the few remaining areas unaffected by development in the South. The author profiles George Archibald, a world authority on cranes and founder of the International Crane Foundation, who has been working for 40 years to protect the cranes, and who has been one of the few Western scientists working with North Korea to rehabilitate areas in the North where cranes used to frequent. Many are urging that the DMZ be kept as an ecological reserve if Korea should ever reunite. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/The-DMZs-Thriving-Resident-The-Crane.html#>

Borras, Jun; Scoones, Ian; Hughes, David SMALL-SCALE FARMERS INCREASINGLY AT RISK FROM 'GLOBAL LAND GRABBING' (Guardian / Poverty Matters Blog, posted April 15, 2011)

The authors warn that the global rush for agricultural land, particularly in Africa and Asia, is putting local small-scale farmers at risk, as these deals rarely take into account local tenure rights. They note that the farmland deals are being driven by food price volatility, production of biofuels, the financial crisis and growing interest in carbon trading. Proponents of these deals say that they provide economies of scale and produce food at prices low enough for poor consumers, but the authors refute this, noting that much of the land secured in these deals is used for export agriculture and production of commodities, not food. The stakes are high for the poor in much of

the world, particularly women and children, who depend upon small-scale family agriculture; the privatization of land and dispossession and eviction of small farmers is rarely taken into account in high-level governmental or corporate board meetings. The authors write that it is essential that policies be adopted that curb the power of investors and secure land rights for local farmers before these land deals are negotiated. Currently available online at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/apr/15/risks-over-increasing-global-land-deals>

Fowler, James; Johnson, Dominic ON OVERCONFIDENCE (Seed Magazine, January 7, 2011)

The authors, instructors in political science at the University of California (San Diego) and Edinburgh University (Scotland), respectively, write that the human attribute of confidence is so essential for even the most everyday activities that we take it for granted. They note that it looms large to explain success of individuals in fields such as medicine, sports, entertainment and business; however, confidence, "like fire, can be extremely useful in controlled amounts, but confidence in excess – overconfidence – can easily burn out of control and cause costly errors." Events such as the 2008 financial collapse, foot-dragging on climate change and disastrous outcomes of wars have been blamed on overconfidence. They note that most people have "positive illusions" about their abilities or vulnerability to risk. The authors write that the dilemma of overconfidence is that it confers success and advantage even at the cost of occasional disasters. Unbounded overconfidence, however, can lead to so much conflict that no gain would be worth it. They write that our decision-making abilities evolved over eons in small hunter-gatherer groups, and are not always attuned to our modern, complex societies. The good news, they note, is that evolutionary reasoning suggests ways to avoid situations where overconfidence is likely to cause deleterious outcomes. Overconfidence can be encouraged in individual settings, such as entertainment or sports, but discouraged in situations where accurate assessment is more important, such as financial regulation, international conflict, climate change negotiations or mutual arms inspections. The authors conclude that "the modern world is very different from the one in which we evolved ... We may not be able to eliminate this bias in our decision-making, but it is crucial that we understand it and reset our institutions accordingly if we are to shake our long record of self-imposed disasters." Currently available online at http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/on_overconfidence/

Friedman, Lisa WHICH NATIONS ARE MOST AT RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE? (Scientific American online, posted February 24, 2011)

Global institutions charged with protecting the most vulnerable nations from the effects of climate change are facing a major dilemma of prioritization. Because there is no international consensus for ranking the possibilities and the funds to help cope with climate change are limited, notes the author, countries are already sparring over who will be considered the most vulnerable. The decision-making process will be fraught with conflict, writes Friedman, pointing out that many scientists consider China, susceptible to desertification, typhoons and sea level rise to be the world's most threatened nation, yet with a USD 5 trillion economy, it may be more able to cope with extreme events than poverty-stricken Bangladesh or low-lying Seychelles. Two recent studies have attempted to quantify the vulnerabilities of 233 nations, in order to be allocate scarce climate-change funding. However, the author notes, the multibillion-dollar Green Climate Fund established in Cancun, but the funding pledge is still unfulfilled; she warns that the world doesn't have much time to make choices. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=which-nations-most-risk-climate-change>

Lomborg, Bjorn A ROADMAP FOR THE PLANET (Newsweek Magazine online, June 12, 2011)

Environmentalists argue that the industrialized countries of the world have made sizable "withdrawals" on nature's "fixed allowance" -- that our current way of living is selfish and unsustainable. It is a compelling story, but fundamentally wrong, says Lomborg, director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center and author of THE SKEPTICAL ENVIRONMENTALIST. Would-

be catastrophes have regularly been pushed aside throughout human history because of innovation and technological development. In recent decades, air and water quality in developed nations has vastly improved. Lomborg writes that, over the past several hundred years, increasing incomes in the West were matched by increasing pollution; in the 1930s and 1940s, London was more polluted than Beijing, New Delhi, or Mexico City are today. Eventually, however, with increased affluence, developed countries gradually were better able to afford a cleaner environment. Currently available online at available at:

<http://www.newsweek.com/2011/06/12/bjorn-lomborg-explains-how-to-save-the-planet.html>

Mencimer, Stephanie MR. PRECEDENT (Mother Jones, vol. 36, no. 3, May/June 2011, pp 54-66)

Liberal reporter Stephanie Mencimer profiles conservative Indiana attorney James Bopp's efforts to change campaign finance laws. Bopp has been successful in his claims that campaign contributions are a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Supreme Court extended the same free speech protections to corporations in the *Citizens United v. FEC* ruling. Bopp has many cases in the lower courts challenging money limits to campaign contributions. His law firm also has cases in 16 states challenging financial disclosure laws for campaign contributors. Currently available under a different title online at

<http://motherjones.com/politics/2011/03/james-bopp-citizens-united>

Wahl, Grant THEY PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE (Sports Illustrated, June 13, 2001, pp. 54-57)

Soccer has become the world's game except in the U.S. where baseball dominates. Although youth soccer leagues have achieved much popularity in the U.S., baseball teams still predominate and, in the major leagues, foreign players have become an important part of the game. Radio and television broadcasting has further encouraged the popularity of baseball to global audiences. The author notes that this is changing, as U.S. soccer teams have embarked on a global search for dual-passport foreign players who could make a difference for the American side. In 2011, of the sixty players in the U.S. men's soccer pool, at least 34, representing twenty countries, are first- or second-generation Americans or otherwise hold foreign passports, the best known of whom is British-born David Beckham. Currently available online at <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1187108/index.htm>

Ball, Karen THE U.S. SOYBEAN KING: CAN CELEBRITY FARMER KIP CULLERS END WORLD HUNGER? (Time, July 21, 2011)

Kip Cullers barely made it through high school — his words — and never took biology or chemistry. But he's arguably the globe's leading authority on soybean genetics and the precise brew of fertilizer, fungicide, weed killer, water — and yes, a pinch of sugar — required to grow a knockout crop. That makes Cullers a bona fide celebrity soybean farmer, who already holds multiple world records for soybean production. Last fall, he set a new bar by producing 160.6 bushels per acre on his Missouri farm — nearly four times the national average. Perhaps even more telling is that Cullers yields 100 bushels per acre on the 300 commercial acres that he doesn't baby and brood over as he does with his experimental plots. What sets the soybean king apart from other farmers is his willingness to try something new every year. For example, he is experimenting with a buried drip tape to provide water to his plants, a method that may produce better crops while conserving water. Cullers adds sugar to the water three times a season, to promote microbe activity, which "chews at organic matter down in the soil" and helps increase carbon dioxide levels, he says. But Cullers recognizes that that the man who would like to solve world hunger is also, at day's end, a farmer trying to make a living, and doesn't want to reveal all his secrets. Currently available online at

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2084388,00.html>

Gleick, James HOW GOOGLE DOMINATES US (New York Review of Books, August 18, 2011)

Is Google evil? That question is essentially at the root of this review of four new books about the Internet phenomenon, whose motto is, famously, "Don't be evil." Steven Levy's *IN THE PLEX* and Douglas Edwards' *I'M FEELING LUCKY*, are accounts by former insiders, while *THE GOOGLIZATION OF EVERYTHING (AND WHY WE SHOULD WORRY)* by Siva Vaidhyanathan and *SEARCH & DESTROY: WHY YOU CAN'T TRUST GOOGLE* by Scott Cleland are outsider critiques that warn, among other things, about the Google's marketing of users as products to advertisers, who employ search data to specifically target potential customers. The reviewer surveys Google's development from the early days, its trajectory to Internet and ad dominance, examining its failures (Google Buzz) and the ethical razor's edge it has walked on various issues, including monopolistic behavior, infringements of privacy and cooperation with oppressive governments such as China. Social media have changed the Web, and Google strives to meet the latest evolution with Google+. Gleick writes, "We need to decide what we want from Google - if only we can make up our collective minds" which are the source of Google's success. Even if we do, we might not get what we want -- but at least we'll get better search results and tailor-made ads. Currently available online at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/aug/18/how-google-dominates-us/?pagination=false>

Keller, Stephanie *THE ISLAMIC FEMINISM QUESTION: FEMINISMS IN IRAN* (Al-Noor: Boston College Undergraduate Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Journal, vol. 3, no. 1, April 2010, pp. 6-17)

The author, with the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College, explores the variety of the different types of feminism within Iranian society by presenting a timely and relevant picture of an important political force at work within the Islamic Republic. As Iran continues to feel the effects of the unrest surrounding the 2009 presidential elections, feminists, including Islamic feminists, have been influential in sustaining hope in Iran. Currently available online at http://alnoorjournal.org/?page_id=614

Nikitin, Vadim *THE REBIRTH OF RUSSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY* (The Nation, July 18, 2011)

Although state-controlled TV has kept the public largely in the dark about it, a new wave of civic activism is emerging in Russia. The country's civil society, often considered a largely irrelevant, politicized and NGO-centric movement, is repositioning itself as a more participatory, nonideological and conspicuously patriotic one. As the state grows increasingly alienated from its people, civic leaders are carving out a small but growing space for online and grassroots protest. The new civil society activists are not interested in ideological grandstanding and deal-making of transactional politics, instead focusing their energies on combating official corruption and out-of-control development. Such pragmatic localism better reflects the worries of ordinary people, who place corruption, abuse of privilege and lack of accountability well above authoritarianism on the list of the country's biggest problems. Civic activists still face big hurdles, the biggest one being the pervasive cynicism and despondency endemic in Russian society. Currently available online at <http://www.thenation.com/article/162108/rebirth-russian-civil-society>

van Kerkhoff, Lorrae; Ahmad, Imran Habib; Pittock, Jamie; Steffen, Will *DESIGNING THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND: HOW TO SPEND \$100 BILLION SENSIBLY* (Environment, vol. 53, no. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 18-30)

The authors, all with Australian National University, note that it is now widely acknowledged and provisioned under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that industrialized countries must assume a large share of the global emission reduction target adapting to the existing and future consequences of climate change; this will be a greater challenge for developing countries. In recognition of this, in 2009 developed countries proposed a fund of up to \$100 billion per year to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. Here, Van Kerkhoff and his co-authors discuss how to spend this \$100 billion sensibly in ways that effectively support and enhance efforts to respond to climate change, particularly

among the most vulnerable and poorly resourced countries across the globe. The authors examine precedents that offer both positive lessons and warning signs, or mistakes to avoid, such as adapting to freshwater shortages by building power-hungry desalination plants that are not supplied from renewable sources, and draw from these some key recommendations for the development of the Green Climate Fund.

Wright, Robin THE STRUGGLE WITHIN ISLAM (Smithsonian, vol. 42, no. 5, September 2011, pp. 104-114)

Extremists get the attention, but the forces of moderation are gaining ground among Muslims, Wright says. For the majority of Muslims today, the central issue is not a clash with other civilizations but rather a struggle to reclaim Islam's central values from a small but virulent minority. The new confrontation is effectively a jihad against The Jihad, says Wright; militant Islam has failed to deliver constructive solutions to the basic challenges of everyday life. While the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States killed almost 3,000 people, Muslim militants have killed more than 10,000 of their brethren in region wide attacks in the decade since. In 2010, public opinion polls in major Muslim countries showed dramatic declines in backing for Al Qaeda. "Today, Al Qaeda is as significant to the Islamic world as the Ku Klux Klan is to the Americans -- not much at all," says Ghada Shahbender, an Egyptian poet and activist. "They exist, but they're freaks." Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/The-Struggle-Within-Islam.html>

ECONOMIC SECURITY (ES)

Cose, Ellis MEET THE NEW OPTIMISTS (Newsweek online, May 15, 2011)

The economic crisis may be depressing for most Americans, but African-Americans remain amazingly upbeat, according to polls. Blacks were more likely than whites to say the economy was sound, according to CBS News. A Washington Post-Kaiser-Harvard poll conducted earlier this year found that 60 percent of blacks, compared to 36 percent of whites, believe that the standard of living will be better for their children. Obama's presidency has fueled optimism among many blacks, but even before Obama's election, the new generation of black achievers refused to believe they would be stymied by the bigotry that bedeviled their parents. Available online at <http://www.newsweek.com/2011/05/15/meet-the-new-optimists.html>

Gandel, Stephen A SURPRISING JOBS RECOVERY: AMERICAN MANUFACTURING IS BACK (Time Magazine online, May 16, 2011)

Despite a lackluster economic rebound, manufacturing in the United States has, for the first time in decades, seen an increase. Nearly one in every six jobs that has been created since the beginning of 2010 has been in manufacturing – and additional 240,000 workers in total. The recovery of U.S. manufacturing is due in part to the weak dollar and increased foreign demand for U.S. construction and agricultural machinery and building supplies. As a result, in the first quarter of 2011, U.S. manufacturing output grew by 9 percent, or five times as fast as the overall economy. Even so, manufacturing – with its comparatively well-paying jobs – makes up only 9 percent of the workforce, down from 16 percent at the beginning of the 1990s. Currently available online at <http://curiouscapitalist.blogs.time.com/2011/05/16/a-surprising-jobs-recovery-american-manufacturing-is-back/>

Hughes, David WILL NATURAL GAS FUEL AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY? (Post Carbon Institute Report, May 29, 2011)

The author, a Canadian energy expert and geoscientist formerly with the Geological Survey of Canada, notes that natural gas is being hailed as a promising “bridge fuel” between high-carbon fuel sources and renewable energy, largely on the basis of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies to tap into previously inaccessible deposits of shale gas. Hughes writes that shale gas wells are costly, both in financial and energy terms, and carry much greater environmental risks than conventional gas wells; because of this, the full-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of shale gas are almost as high as coal. The most promising areas for drilling are much smaller than originally anticipated. Hughes notes that shale gas wells experience very high depletion rates, often as much as 85% in the first year, forcing an accelerating treadmill of drilling just to keep production from falling. In the face of declining gas production in North America, Hughes warns that we have “placed all our eggs in the shale gas basket”, and that strategies for energy sustainability must focus on reducing energy demand and optimizing the use of combustible fuels. Available online (PDF, 93mb) at <http://www.postcarbon.org/report/331901-report-will-natural-gas-fuel-america>

Schwägerl, Christian GERMANY’S UNLIKELY CHAMPION
OF A RADICAL GREEN ENERGY PATH (Yale Environment 360, May 9, 2011)

The author, a journalist at Der Spiegel, writes that German Chancellor Angela Merkel “is anything but a left-wing greenie” – she is the equivalent of a Republican in the U.S., and is pro-business. Yet, the disaster at the Fukushima plant in Japan convinced her that nuclear power is not a viable option. Merkel has embarked on the world’s most ambitious plan to power an advanced economy on renewable sources of energy, having announced in March that Germany would speed up the phasing-out of all 17 German nuclear reactors, slash the use of coal and expedite approvals for renewables. Schwägerl writes that what Merkel proposes is risky and expensive, but notes that she has reacted to Fukushima very differently from other world leaders. He believes that her about-face on nuclear energy stems from her former profession as a researcher in quantum chemistry, which instilled in her the confidence that she was good at assessing risks; the Fukushima-Daiichi disaster “made the chancellor realize that she had been terribly wrong about the probability of a nuclear catastrophe in a highly advanced nation ... Merkel’s scientific sense of probability and rationality was shaken to the core.” Currently available online at http://e360.yale.edu/feature/germanys_unlikely_champion_of_a_radical_green_energy_path/2401/

Sen, Amartya QUALITY OF LIFE: INDIA VS. CHINA (New York Review of Books, May 12, 2011)

Nobel laureate and economist Amartya Sen compares the two Asian economic giants India and China, emphasizing that GNP is not the only measure of successful government. Currently, China outperforms India in quality of life factors such as life expectancy, literacy, health care and nutrition of its citizens. He writes, “Sustainable economic growth is a very good thing in a way that ‘growth mania’ is not.” He acknowledges that growth generates public resources, but the governments must use the income responsibly for the public good. Because of the size of India’s prosperous minority and media focus on it, an unrealistically “rosy picture” of Indian society is projected. He urges a realistic public policy that prioritizes ways to improve the lives of the majority of Indians who live in poverty, and warns of the damaging consequences of focus only on GNP growth.

Johnson, Chad TOO BIG TO FAIL OR TOO BIG TO CHANGE? (Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, June 25, 2011)

The author, a partner with the law firm Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, writes that the investing public has grown frustrated with the lack of prosecutions of senior executives and companies responsible for the subprime mortgage meltdown and the resulting financial crisis of 2008. He notes that most of the settlements that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) have obtained from targeted firms and their

executives have been far too lenient, and have been criticized by federal judges. Johnson lays the blame for the insufficient government action to the lack of funding for the SEC's and DoJ's enforcement operations, and a "revolving-door" environment between the Wall Street firms and the federal agencies responsible for their oversight. He believes that it is up to institutional investors and pension funds to fill the void, and seek redress for shareholders defrauded by corporate misconduct; several major pension funds are currently pursuing legal action against many of the major investment banks at the center of the 2008 financial collapse. Currently available online at <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/corpgov/2011/06/25/too-big-to-fail-or-too-big-to-change/>

Kinloch, David Brown THE MYTH OF BASELOAD (Kentucky.com, posted July 12, 2011)

"Baseload" is a term that electric power utility companies use to describe centralized plants, usually coal- or nuclear-powered, with the lowest operating costs, that provide the bulk of a region's typical power demand. On days when demand is higher than normal, more expensive generators are brought online to provide the "peaking" load. Traditionally, utilities have dismissed renewables as being unable to reliably provide baseload power. However the author, an engineer, writes that radical change is coming to the utility industry, as the growing cost of fuels and increasing pollution controls make conventional coal- or nuclear-powered plants more expensive. Kinloch notes that coal and nuclear plants cannot be scaled back quickly during periods of lower usage, and doing so makes them less efficient. As to the supposed intermittency of renewable power, he notes that, just as utility dispatchers estimate customer demand in advance using weather forecasts, so can they estimate the amount of power expected to be produced by solar or wind installations. Kinloch notes that the major obstacle is getting utility planners and dispatchers to think outside the mindset that baseload power must be delivered by conventional fossil or nuclear plants. Available online at <http://www.kentucky.com/2011/07/12/1809690/the-myth-of-baseload.html>

Krugman, Paul; Wells, Robin THE BUSTS KEEP GETTING BIGGER: WHY? (New York Review of Books, July 14, 2011)

In this review of Jeff Madrick's book AGE OF GREED: THE TRIUMPH OF FINANCE AND THE DECLINE OF AMERICA, 1970 TO THE PRESENT, Nobel Laureate Krugman and writer Wells discuss the cycle of financial overreach by big banks such as Citibank, and chronicle how this was enabled by Reagan-era deregulation that undermined oversight and created circumstances that allowed Wall Street to continue reckless lending which has precipitated successive financial crises. A creed of "greedism" espoused by Reagan and Milton Friedman -- that the common good is served by unchecked self-interest -- encouraged banks to engage in risky practices. Madrick traces the history of these increasingly serious crises, demonstrates that the triumph of Wall Street has diminished America's productivity and warns that if the lessons of the 2008-2009 crisis are not learned, financial institutions may continue on their rapacious path and precipitate yet another crisis.

Tafirenyika, Masimba INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPER-CHARGING RWANDA'S ECONOMY (Africa Renewal, April 2011, pp. 18-20)

Tiny landlocked Rwanda, one of the world's poorest countries, was nearly brought to its knees by a genocide in 1994 that killed about 800,000 people. Today it aspires to be a regional high-tech hub, with such innovations as the smart-card ticketing system (twende) introduced in the capital, Kigali, in early 2011 by Kigali Bus Services, that has caused rapid changes in the economy and has transformed the country into an important center for business communications and information technology. In turn, these innovations are altering the way Rwandans communicate, pay for goods and services, and go about their daily lives. Currently available online at <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol25no1/rwanda-information-technology.html>

Taylor, Alan M. FINANCIAL REBALANCING ACT: STOP WORRYING ABOUT GLOBAL FLOW OF CAPITAL (Foreign Affairs, July/August 2011)

According to Alan Taylor, a senior adviser at Morgan Stanley, the capital flow imbalance between developed and emerging economies is already adjusting. After the financial crises of the 1990s, emerging economies adopted policies for saving enormous official reserves as a way to cushion the next crisis. The odd result was that capital flowed from developing countries to wealthier developed countries, a historic reversal. The lower interest rates from the “savings glut” encouraged excessive financial risk taking in the developed countries, contributing to the 2007-2008 crisis and subsequent Great Recession. Having protected their economies through the crisis, the emerging economies are now building reserves more slowly as they spend more money on internal investment, consumption, and social safety nets. Developed countries, meanwhile, are also saving less while spending more on aging populations. As the global savings glut subsides, global interest rates are rising, and the flow of capital is moving more in the direction of the rapidly expanding emerging economies.

Galbraith, Kate; Price, Asher A MIGHTY WIND (*Texas Monthly*, August 2011, pp. 104-107, 156-163)

Galbraith and Price discuss the history of the wind power industry in Texas. Despite its reputation as an oil producer, an unlikely alliance in Texas has created the country's largest wind energy industry, greatly surpassing California's wind farms' output. The Texas legislature and federal energy incentives provided the push towards wind energy. The authors note that many of the turbines are made in Europe and China, and that it is likely that the Texas wind power industry has reached its potential. They note that many people now complain about the noise from the turbines and the high-tension power lines on their properties.

Knight, Sam INSIDE THE SNOW GLOBE (Harper's Magazine, vol. 323, no. 1934, July 2011, pp. 58-66)

The author, who writes regularly for the Financial Times, notes that since 1992, Novak, a research company, had made its money selling information about what Belarusians like to watch on television, but it also carried out social surveys, asking people about their economic well-being and political views. Over the previous decade and a half, as public life in Belarus had shriveled and stagnated under its autocratic ruler, Alexander Lukashenka, these polls had become one of the nation's last sources of independent political data. While other pollsters had been shut down, forced abroad, or brought into the complex embrace of the state, Novak survived, becoming more vulnerable, and more valuable, with each passing year. In this article, the author looks at Belarus' last independent pollster and discusses why the government is trying to shut it down.

Kunstler, James Howard BACK TO THE FUTURE: A ROADMAP FOR TOMORROW'S CITIES (Orion, July-August 2011)

The heyday of suburbia and skyscraper-studded cities as we know them is palpably waning, writes Kunstler. The decreasing availability of fossil fuels and impinging climate change ensure the end of energy-intensive city structures, cheap air and motor transport and high-tech farming. According to Kunstler, the future will be smaller-scale neighborhoods and walkable towns clustered around local food and water resources; lucky ones will be linked by railways. Development without any limitation and a belief in “technomagic” have ironically created “places with no magic, no power to enchant the human spirit,” and despite “technograndiose” ideas about the future, our trajectory, by necessity, is likely a return to a human-sized, textured, localized lifestyle. Currently available online at <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6336/>

Pettis, Michael AN EXORBITANT BURDEN (Foreign Policy, posted September 7, 2011)

Michael Pettis, professor of finance at Peking University and senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, argues that keeping the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency imposes significant costs on the U.S. economy. He rejects as false a popular perception that, thanks to its currency's status, the U.S. enjoys low interest rates and ability to borrow and consume beyond its means. Instead, foreign accumulation of U.S. dollar assets causes the huge U.S. trade deficit, the low level of savings and high levels of private and public debt or makes these three conditions worse, Pettis says. But Washington is reluctant to create rules that would prevent countries from accumulating U.S. dollars for fear that such rules would signal a relative decline in the power of the U.S. economy. Calls for making an IMF basket of currencies – known as the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) – the new global reserve currency are insincere at best, for no country is willing to accumulate SDRs, because of trade constraints. By moving in that direction, a country would be forcing trade deficits (and related currency appreciation) onto the countries whose currencies are included in the SDR, the author concludes. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/09/07/an_exorbitant_burden

Sorensen, Chris; Savage, Luiza CHOKING THE OIL SANDS (MacLeans, posted August 25, 2011)

Large numbers of climate activists have converged on Washington, D.C. to draw the American public's attention to the Alberta tar sands, one of the most energy-intensive and environmentally damaging sources of oil in the world. But the protests are not directed at the open-pit mines in Canada, but are an effort to block a proposed pipeline, Keystone XL, that will bring the crude from Canada to refineries in Texas and Louisiana. Because the pipeline crosses an international boundary, the U.S.-Canada border, the State Department must make a national-interest finding, and grant approval for its construction; a decision is expected by the end of the year. Industry proponents of Keystone XL point to the potential benefits of increased energy security and jobs, but many critics note that the U.S. is already amply supplied with Canadian crude, and the real reason TransCanada, the pipeline company, wants it built is to gain access to deepwater ports in the Gulf of Mexico, and thus to global oil markets, where they can get a higher price. Much local opposition has sprung up in mid-Western states regarding the pipeline's path across the Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies irrigation and drinking water to millions. Additionally, critics note that much of the crude that will be transported in the pipeline will not be oil but diluted bitumen (dilbit), an unstable mixture of viscous tar and naphtha solvents that has a history of pipeline ruptures. Currently available online at <http://www2.macleans.ca/2011/08/25/choking-the-oil-sands/>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Alter, Jonathan WOMAN OF THE WORLD (Vanity Fair, June 2011)

Hillary Rodham Clinton, now in her ninth year as America's most admired woman, is "in her element" dealing with foreign upheaval not seen since the fall of the Soviet Union. President Obama chose her as Secretary of state because "she represents the United States better than anyone but him," this lengthy portrait claims. In the two and a half years on the job, she has visited 80 countries. She and President Obama agree that "one-size-fits-all" foreign policy will not work. Staffers note that both Obama and Hillary are methodical, deductive thinkers who drill down into a problem. But in an interview, she acknowledged that most problems are never solved. "You just keep working at them and working at them and working at them," Clinton said. Currently available online at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2011/06/hillary-clinton-201106>

Friedman, George VISEGRAD: A NEW EUROPEAN MILITARY FORCE (Stratfor, May 17, 2011)

After the collapse of the former Soviet Union, four Central and Eastern European countries – Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary – formed the Visegrad Group, or V4, named after a fourteenth-century alliance formed in Visegrad Castle in present-day Hungary. The goal of the V4 was to create a regional framework after the fall of communism. In May, the Visegrad Group announced the formation of a battlegroup that would be in place by 2016 and would not be part of the NATO command. Friedman, founder of the security consultancy Stratfor, writes since the fall of the USSR, the primary focus of the V4 nations had been membership in the EU and NATO. The formation of the V4 force is a major change in their strategic thinking, he notes. Russia has regained much of its former influence, underscoring the V4 countries' historical fear of Russia. Their enthusiasm about joining Western Europe has waned, in view of the economic crisis consuming the eurozone, questions about whether NATO can provide a genuine security umbrella, and Germany's commitment to the EU and NATO and a growing German-Russian economic relationship. Friedman notes that previously, the Visegrad countries would have been reluctant to undertake a unilateral defense policy, therefore the decision to do this is significant.

Goldberg, Jeffrey DANGER: FALLING TYRANTS (Atlantic Monthly, June 2011)

Preserving U.S. access to oil may require the Obama administration to call for more democracy in some countries in the Middle East while propping up monarchs in others, according to Goldberg. The trajectories of the Middle East's revolutions are still difficult to discern, and it is not clear yet that tyranny, is, in fact, in permanent eclipse. Goldberg notes that some ruling regimes may need to be propped up to counterbalance the major threat facing the U.S. in the region, Iran. He believes that the U.S. should pay close attention to the Muslim brotherhood, which has a number of autonomous branches of varying degrees of radicalism. The Arab revolution has created some fracturing along ideological lines within the Muslim Brotherhood, but Goldberg notes that it is adept at playing politics and ducking hard questions. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/06/danger-falling-tyrants/8493/>

Kundnani, Hans GERMANY AS A GEO-ECONOMIC POWER (Washington Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 3, Summer 2011, pp. 31-45)

Kundnani, Editorial Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, writes that, after World War II and prior to reunification, West Germany could be described as a "civilian power" – it avoided military force and acted multilaterally to "civilize" international relations. During the Cold War, Germany renounced an autonomous security policy in favor of reliance on the U.S. and on NATO, which allowed them to focus on economic growth. Fears of possible German territorial expansionism after reunification turned out to be unfounded, as the German economy became interdependent on its neighbors. Although Germany participated in the 1999 Kosovo war on the basis of it being a multilateral NATO campaign, it has since been increasingly reluctant to be involved in military endeavors, notably its refusal to support the Iraq war and growing criticism of the war in Afghanistan. As its economy has recovered and grown since reunification, Germany has become less reliant on NATO and the EU, and has been more ready to impose its preferences on other eurozone countries, in view of the growing imbalances within the eurozone. Kundnani believes that Germany is evolving into a "geo-economic" power -- one that eschews military force, but acts when its economic interests are at stake and is less willing to participate in multilateral initiatives. Currently available online at http://www.twq.com/11summer/docs/11summer_Kundnani.pdf

Stevenson, Jonathan OWNED BY THE ARMY: HAS THE PRESIDENT LOST CONTROL OF HIS GENERALS? (Harper's, vol. 322, no. 1932, May 2011, pp. 34-40)

The author, professor of strategic studies at the U.S. Naval War College, writes that the American founders designated civilian control over the military as a safeguard against a would-be Caesar;

with a few exceptions, challenges by military commanders has not been a major issue. That started to change after the Vietnam war, as many soldiers who served in Vietnam, who would go on to lead the armed forces in later decades, believed that their superiors should have more forcefully dissented from the civilian leadership. Stevenson notes that the system began to break down during the George W. Bush presidency, when the global military presence required to conduct the war on terror has emboldened military commanders and made generals “effectively proconsuls of the U.S. government”. He notes that recent presidents have less military experience, while at the same time, the generals are pushing for more resources, as has happened in Afghanistan. Stevenson says the remedy is “a chief executive who appreciates the risk of strategic overstretch and is willing to rein in military leaders.”

Bumgarner, John TECH-SAVVY TERRORISTS (Asia-Pacific Defense Forum, vol. 36, no. 2, April 2011, pp. 10-17)

The author is chief technology officer, U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit (US-CCU), an independent, non-profit research institute that provides assessments of the strategic and economic consequences of possible cyber-attacks and cyber-assisted physical attacks. In his position, he describes methods in which countering extremism on the internet requires innovation. As terrorism, illicit activities and provocations by rogue states such as North Korea threaten to disturb the peace that America’s allies and partners work so hard to secure, both the authorities and the terrorist networks have had to deal with an important component that previous terrorist incidents lacked: the use of 21st-century technology. This development allows the attackers and the extremist groups to plan the assault and the government agencies, in return, to fight them. Currently available online at http://apdforum.com/en_GB/article/rmiap/articles/print/features/2011/04/01/feature-01

Gurman, Hannah THE OTHER PLUMBERS UNIT: THE DISSENT CHANNEL OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT (Diplomatic History, vol. 35, no. 2, April 2011, pp. 203-231)

The author describes the ways in which U.S. policymakers have worked to minimize dissent within the State Department, despite the misinformed narratives of U.S. foreign policy that make it appear that policy is made within a small circle of important players, including the President and Secretary of State. The author notes that the Dissent Channel, created by the State Department in 1971, provides a means for any Foreign Service officer to write directly to the Secretary of State to register disagreement about decisions made in Washington. All such dissents are marked Top Secret, which minimizes the risk that they will be leaked to the press and embarrass the administration. The author notes that, while the Dissent Channel was created as a result of the deeply unpopular Vietnam war, subsequent administrations have used the Dissent Channel as a means to suppress internal dissent, as recently as the George W. Bush administration, which had to deal with diplomats who opposed the Iraq War.

Miller, Aaron D. FOR AMERICA, AN ARAB WINTER (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 35, no. 3, Summer 2011, pp. 36-42)

The demands for change in the Arab world in recent months have created more uncertainty for the United States, notes the author. The fall of Arab autocrats creates more risks than opportunities and the Arab upheavals have narrowed the space in which the United States can pursue its policies and interests. In dealing with each Arab ruler or leader, the United States has struck a different balance between its values and interests. For example, the sweeping changes in the Arab world were a reminder to the Palestinians of how little their own situation had changed while the Arab monarchies, particularly those in the Persian Gulf, have survived without serious challenges.

Oren, Michael THE ULTIMATE ALLY (Foreign Policy, no. 186, May/June 2011, pp. 44-51)

The author, Israel's ambassador to the United States, argues that, with the current upheaval in the Middle East, the U.S. needs Israel more than ever. He notes that Israel has sided with the U.S. through multiple conflicts over the past 60 years, and shares its global vision. Oren writes that American interest in a Jewish homeland is not recent; since colonial times, American statesmen have written and spoken about it. In a region where most countries are ruled by autocratic regimes and by leaders who consider themselves above the law, Israel alone has maintained a democratic tradition. The alliance with Israel has enabled the U.S. to minimize its commitment of military resources in the region; Israel is also one of our major economic partners. U.S. diplomats involved in Middle East affairs have never considered that the presence of the so-called "Israel lobby" has influenced their decision-making. As to the allegation that the U.S.-Israel alliance has stoked anger in the Arab world and made the U.S. more vulnerable to terrorism, Oren writes that Arab public opinion is more concerned with domestic issues, such as economic and democratic reform than enmity toward Israel; the Wikileaks cables have shown that many Arab regimes are more worried about Iran than they are about Israel. Currently available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally

Roberts, Alasdair THE WIKILEAKS ILLUSION (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 35, no. 3, Summer 2011, pp. 16-21)

The author, Professor of Law and Public Policy at Suffolk University Law School, notes that a consortium of major news media organizations, including The New York Times, The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and El Pais, began publishing excerpts from a quarter-million U.S. State Department cables obtained by WikiLeaks. In July 2010, The Guardian described the release of the Afghan war documents as "one of the biggest leaks in U.S. military history." Roberts questions whether the outing of the State Department cables by Wikileaks really marks the end of "old-fashioned secrecy." Technological change has caused an explosion in the rate of information production within government agencies, as everywhere else. For example, the leaked State Department cables might have added up to about two gigabytes of data -- one-quarter of an eight-gigabyte memory card. By comparison, it has been estimated that the outgoing Bush White House transferred 77 terabytes of data to the National Archives in 2009; the holdings of other agencies are even larger.

Drezner, Daniel DOES OBAMA HAVE A GRAND STRATEGY? WHY WE NEED DOCTRINES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, no. 4, July/August 2011, pp. 57-68)

Drezner, Professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, writes that with the U.S. military intervention in Libya, many foreign-policy observers have bemoaned the supposed lack of a grand strategy within the Obama administration. Despite of what his critics say, Drezner notes that the Obama administration has not had just one grand strategy, but two. The first, which he calls multilateral retrenchment, is designed to restore U.S. standing in the world by curtailing our overseas commitments and relying on global partners to assume part of the burden. The second strategy is "counterpunching" -- actions aimed at reassuring allies that the U.S. will respond to rising threats and will not retreat into isolationism. Drezner believes that Obama needs to articulate his grand strategy more clearly, otherwise his critics and opponents will do it for him in less than flattering terms.

Kaplan, Robert THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT (Foreign Policy, no. 188, September/October 2011, pp. 76-85)

The crucial difference between the 20th and 21st centuries, notes Kaplan, is that most of the contested areas in the world lay on dry land in Europe. In recent decades, more of the global economic and demographic center of gravity has shifted to Asia, where the spaces between major population centers are predominantly maritime. Kaplan predicts that the Western Pacific will become the world's new center of military contest, and will be primarily naval. Unlike land warfare, which enmeshes civilian populations, naval conflict is a more "clinical and technocratic

affair ... returning military affairs to the narrow realm of defense experts.” He believes that the U.S. may, over time, have to adjust to the reality of a Chinese deep-water navy; although competition is a given, armed conflict is far from inevitable. If China and the U.S. successfully manage a balance, Asia and the world could become more secure and prosperous. Currently available online at

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/08/15/the_south_china_sea_is_the_future_of_conflict

Lake, Eli ALL OVER THE MAP: THE STRANGE NEW WORLD OF REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY (New Republic, August 18, 2011, pp. 13-17)

The author notes that the foreign-policy consensus within the U.S. Republican Party (GOP) has collapsed. The GOP foreign-policy establishment, traditionally composed of realists, came under attack by the neoconservatives in the 1970s, culminating in the election of the George W. Bush administration, from which many realists, such as Colin Powell and Brent Scowcroft, began distancing themselves. The neoconservatives dominated the party through the 2008 presidential elections, and the candidates then mostly reflected the unilateralist, democracy- and nation-building outlook of the Bush administration. In the last few years, however, new insurgents have emerged in the party, who are less inclined to support democratization and nation-building, and whose international outlook ranges from hawkishness to isolationism. The author writes that the GOP foreign-policy discussion “has imploded entirely, [resulting in a] difficult-to-parse ideological brew of policy disagreements and competing instincts.” Complicating the matter is that most of the candidates are only just beginning to form foreign-policy teams.

McGlinchey, Eric EXPLORING REGIME INSTABILITY AND ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN KYRGYZSTAN (Asia Policy, no. 12, July 2011, pp. 79-98)

The author, Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University, writes that most explanations for the violent clashes in June 2010 between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan focus on specific incidents immediately prior to the conflict. McGlinchey argues, however, that structural causes – the fragmentation of the political elite and a public that can be easily mobilized – are behind the political instability in Kyrgyzstan. Roza Otunbayeva’s interim government attempted to establish its democratic credentials after assuming power in April 2010, prompting disaffected groups to stage violent protests. McGlinchey believes that the international community can assist the Kyrgyz government to minimize the potential of violent conflict by recognizing that rapid attempts to create democratic institutions can undermine a system that, while authoritarian, maintains a semblance of peace and stability. Additionally, foreign policy must realize that the Kyrgyz national government does not have a monopoly of power throughout the country.

Sneider, Daniel THE NEW ASIANISM: JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN (Asia Policy, no. 12, July 2011, pp. 99-129)

Sneider, Associate Director for Research at the Walter Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, writes that the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) came into power in 2009, ending fifty years of conservative rule, with the aim of rebalancing Japanese foreign policy with a greater focus on Asia. However, DPJ’s first year was marked by tensions – first, over U.S. bases in Okinawa, and then clashes with China over the Senkaku Islands. While the U.S.-Japan security relationship has since been patched back up, Sneider notes that the “new Asianism” — an effort to manage the rise of China — remains at the core of DPJ’s outlook. He warns that relations between Japan and the U.S. could deteriorate, and that the basis for dialogue built up during decades of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party needs to be revitalized to adapt to a new era. Sneider writes that the “new Asianism” of the DPJ should be viewed as an opportunity, since the party’s focus on developing ties with countries as disparate as India, Australia and Vietnam could create a security structure that can cope with the rise of China.

Traub, James THE ALL-AMERICAN (New York Times Magazine, July 17, 2011)

The author notes that after Barack Obama won the U.S. presidency in 2008, John Kerry, then the junior senator from Massachusetts, very much wanted to be named secretary of state, a job for which he felt qualified as a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. However, Obama picked New York senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton instead. In 2009, Kerry has been able to practice his own brand of diplomacy as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; he has become a kind of ex-officio member of Obama's national security team, which has dispatched him to conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan. Kerry's willingness to travel anywhere he is needed, and stay as long as necessary, has won him Obama's gratitude. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/magazine/john-kerry-our-man-in-kabul.html?pagewanted=all>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Greenberg, Gary MY MONSTER, MY SELF: ON NICHOLAS CARR AND WILLIAM POWERS (The Nation, March 16, 2011)

The author, a therapist, notes that cell phones and the Internet have made the young fundamentally different than older adults and are redefining the meaning of a good life and what it means to be human. Nicholas Carr, in *THE SHALLOWS* and William Powers, in *HAMLET'S BLACKBERRY*, attempt to tell us who we are becoming now that we swim in an endless stream of digital data. Their books are in part confessional accounts of their discovery of their dependence on their cell phones and how the online life has changed them. Once upon a time, enlightenment philosophers and scientists encouraged us to think of ourselves as the source of meaning and reading was central to this. But now reading has been supplanted, as Carr puts it, by "the speedy, superficial skimming of information" culled from the links generated by a Google search, which discourages "any deep, prolonged engagement with a single argument, idea, or narrative." The space for contemplation disappears in the digital frenzy, and with it the necessity, and the possibility, of reflection. Constantly in the digital crowd, we are deprived of depth and substance, even when we don't know it. With every Google search or friend request or tweet or stolen look at your BlackBerry, you are that much more firmly plugged into the collective and that much less in touch with yourself. Some scientists have found that daily use of digital devices "stimulates brain cell alteration." Overtaxation by the flood of information makes us more susceptible to distraction and less able to experience emotion. If we want to preserve the health of our brains, the author believes, we will carve out a "peaceful spot where contemplativeness can work its restorative magic." Currently available online at <http://www.thenation.com/article/159279/my-monster-my-self-nicholas-carr-and-william-powers>

Rich, Nathaniel THE INSANE BOYS BLEW IT (New York Review of Books, May 26, 2011)

This review of a new nine-DVD collection of significant films of the BBS (formerly Raybert) film production company, which brought out classics such as *Easy Rider* and *Five Easy Pieces*, made actor Jack Nicholson a star and put actor/director Dennis Hopper on the map. The BBS model for success with low-budget auteur films transformed the way Hollywood made movies. But BBS' freedom and influence waned, as Hollywood gravitated toward the star-driven blockbuster. Today, the author wistfully concludes, "the only players in Hollywood" given freedom to experiment are digital technicians with dazzling special effects.

Semmel, K.E. AN INTERVIEW WITH SHERMAN ALEXIE (Writer's Chronicle, May/Summer 2011)

American-Indian novelist, poet, screenwriter and stand-up comedian Sherman Alexie discusses how his life experience informs his art. His modern Native American roots permeate his fiction,

which is invariably about characters in the Indian community, on or near the reservation. One of those, Thomas Builds-the-Fire, resurfaces in his new novel *FIRE WITH FIRE*. Alexie's themes are often social ills: racism, alcoholism, hatred and general alienation from society. He observes that the new American addiction is addiction to technology, which "has essentially turned us all into emotional autistics," causing a disconnection from real life – which, he says, may be the subject of his next novel.

Stap, Don *GRAINS OF CHANGE* (Audubon, March-April 2011)

California's Central Valley once held vast wetlands populated by numerous bird and other wildlife species until agriculture destroyed 99 percent of this natural habitat, turning the rich soil into lucrative farms and ranches. But extensive rice farming is bringing back the wetlands, and birds such as the Long-billed Curlew are returning to this man-made habitat. Many farmers now incorporate conservation techniques and replace damaging practices like incinerating rice straw with natural, earth-friendly methods. It works for the farmers, and biologists from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory report that the Curlew population — among others -- has rebounded.

Wood, Gordon *THOSE SENTIMENTAL AMERICANS* (New York Review of Books, May 12, 2011)

John and Abigail Adams are the subjects of two books reviewed, *FIRST FAMILY: ABIGAIL AND JOHN*, by Joseph J. Ellis and *ABIGAIL AND JOHN ADAMS: THE AMERICANIZATION OF SENSIBILITY*. The first mines the voluminous Adams' correspondence to present a picture of their private lives, so entwined with their public ones. The second is an episodic collection of essays discussing the connection between 18th century American republicanism and sensibility, drawing on the Adams' frequent exchanges in letters about literature and culture. The author advances the idea that Revolutionary Americans embraced emotional sympathy – sensibility -- which led to concern for the rights and well-being of individuals.

Andrews, Colman *WAY DOWN IN THE DELTA* (Country Living, vol. 34, no. 6, June 2011, pp. 104-111)

One of America's iconic forms of music, the blues, which had its origins in American black spirituals, was born in the Mississippi Delta. For years, blues fans have made pilgrimages to the Delta to hear legendary blues musicians such as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and Howlin' Wolf. Beginning in World War II, U.S. soldiers and other military personnel stationed in Europe and Asia introduced this form of American music to foreign audiences. Then there is the food which, in the Delta, means catfish which is raised in the region, and tamales, which fueled the blues clubs.

Bordewich, Fergus *OPENING SALVO* (Smithsonian, vol. 42, no 1, April 2011, pp. 76-99)

A small U.S. Army garrison had been holed up in Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor since December 1860, the last remnant of federal authority in secessionist South Carolina, when in mid-April 1861, the Confederates demanded immediate evacuation. Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, signaling the start of a civil war that would take hundreds of thousands of lives and threaten the U.S. with internal collapse. One hundred and fifty years later, the Civil War's ramifications still profoundly affect American society, from the consequences of slavery for African-Americans and debates over states' rights. The issue of slavery was so controversial that even fifty years ago, it virtually paralyzed the federal commission making preparations for the war's centennial in 1961. Many believed that if the Confederate secession had succeeded, it would enable other states to break away from the union for any reason; the author notes that the outcome of the Civil War showed that the U.S. could survive as a nation. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Fort-Sumter-The-Civil-War-Begins.html>

Decker, Juilee THE MAKING AND MEANING OF PUBLIC ART (Choice, vol. 48, no. 10, June 2011, pp. 1827-1830, 1832-1841)

To many Americans, public art invokes images of the paintings and murals that appeared in post offices and in other government buildings during the 1930s through the auspices of the Works Progress Administration or, more recently, through various neighborhood and school projects funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Chicago's network of public art is as vast as the city itself. In recent years, these projects have been accompanied with controversy generated by groups opposed to the expenditure of public funds on art, or who object to the subject matter of public art projects. The author, chair of the arts department at Georgetown College, writes that public art has emerged only recently as an academic field. In her essay, she tries to address all aspects of the debate, including funding, care and maintenance/conservation, public art as related to environment, ecological art, earthworks, memory, commemorative events (especially prominent after 9/11 and other national tragedies) and the inevitable controversies.

Elliot, J. H. THE VERY VIOLENT ROAD TO AMERICA (New York Review of Books, June 9, 2011)

In his review of Daniel Richter's BEFORE THE REVOLUTION: AMERICA'S ANCIENT PASTS, the writer highlights how early ethnic diversity, indigenous peoples, and the vastness of the continent influenced American social and political development. This is in contrast to the long-accepted Anglocentric, exceptionalist view of a United States that was solely the logical result of its struggle for independence. Modern scholarship of the colonial period has introduced a broader, more accurate view of the development of the United States. Native Americans, English, Dutch, Spanish, French and Africans all participated in an often violent history. The book reviewed underscores the fact that "the American past belongs to many peoples, and that none should be forgotten."

Spencer, Rochelle SHE IS READY (Poets & Writers, May/June 2011)

This profile of young novelist Tayari Jones tracks her career on the verge of the publication of her third novel, SILVER SPARROW. Jones relates how she worked through insecurities about her writing with the help of mentors such as writer Jewell Parker Rhodes and the importance of expressing her identity as black Southern writer in her fiction. Jones employs new media, has a popular blog, and continues to chronicle the complexities of black and bi-racial family life in her work.

Beinhoff, Lisa THE MILLENNIALS: A SURVEY OF THE MOST CITED LITERATURE (Choice, August 2011, pp. 2225-2231)

Beinhoff, director of the library at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, notes that large groups of individuals have shared unique traits based upon the time period in which they were born, a concept long been embraced by American society. This has been fueled by the social impact of America's rebellious baby boomer generation (born between 1946 and 1964). At the end of the 20th century, the "millennial generation," the children of the baby boomers, started to enter adulthood and the workforce. This essay identifies key readings in research about the millennial generation and discusses the most-cited works in the fields of education, business, sociology, psychology, religion, and technology that acknowledge the effects of the millennials.

Coffey, Rebecca THE WINE WHISPERERS (Discover, September 2011)

Several top California winemakers are interviewed about the science behind *terroir*, the natural ecosystem that affects the character of the grape, and the chemistry of making fine wines. There is a spectrum of approaches, from fully natural, where only local yeasts and bacteria are used to ferment the wine in casks of organic materials, to those in the middle, which enhance nature with

carefully selected commercial yeasts and microbes, to those who supervise wine factories employing “trade-secret chemicals” that produce predictable, drinkable, if somewhat boring wines. Most of the winemakers featured credit the importance of *terroir*, but fall into the middle category, combining nature’s gifts with their own artistry.

Dyson, Freeman THE ‘DRAMATIC PICTURE’ OF RICHARD FEYNMAN (New York Review of Books, July 14, 2011)

In the course of reviewing two books about Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman, the author observes that the charismatic scientist may have achieved the rank of superstar, given that one of the biographies, FEYNMAN, by Jim Ottovani and Leland Myrick, is an engaging comic book. The other, QUANTUM MAN, explains the essence of Feynman’s thinking and view of nature in “a new kind of scientific history.” Dyson pays tribute to a colleague “whose contribution was the creation of a new way of thinking” that led others to their own discoveries.

Gottlieb, Lori HOW TO LAND YOUR KID IN THERAPY (Atlantic Monthly, July/August 2011)

Is it possible for parents to do too much for their children? Yes, says therapist and mother Lori Gottlieb. It is possible that parents, by trying to protect their children from unhappiness, deprive them of happiness as adults. Overprotected children grow into adults who think something must be terribly wrong when they experience the normal frustrations of life. Kids need exposure to discomfort, failure, and struggle to learn how to be resilient and persevere -- qualities that lead to life fulfillment and success. And despite the spate of articles in recent years exploring why so many people in their 20s seem reluctant to grow up, the problem may be less that kids are refusing to separate and individuate than that their parents are resisting doing so. With families having fewer children and society offering less of a close-knit community, it may be that parents cling too closely to their children for companionship. Currently available online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/07/how-to-land-your-kid-in-therapy/8555/>

McCullough, David SAMUEL MORSE’S REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (Smithsonian, vol. 42, no. 5, September 2011, pp. 80-88)

Samuel F.B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, had set his hopes on being a painter since his college days. However, a series of setbacks and disappointments, the death of his wife, an ill-advised candidacy for the mayor of New York City under the anti-immigrant Nativist party, had by 1838 left him despondent, and he quit painting for good. The author notes, however, that if Morse had not stopped painting when he did, his home tinkering would not have resulted in the invention of the electromagnetic telegraph. After quitting his art, Morse focused on the crude device in his New York apartment. By opening and closing an electrical circuit, signals of dots and dashes could be translated into letters by a receiving apparatus. Key to his invention was a series of electromagnetic relays that would place no limit on the distance a message could be transmitted. After a series of successful tests, Morse “electrified” Washington with a demonstration of the telegraph in the Capitol, in the presence of President van Buren. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Samuel-Morses-Reversal-of-Fortune.html?c=y&page=3>

O’Rourke, Meghan THE VISIONS OF ANN BEATTIE (New York Review of Books, July 14, 2011)

The development of fiction writer Ann Beattie’s work from the 1970s to the present is assessed in this review of a new collection of her stories, The New Yorker Stories, and a range of other books by the author. Although her writing has been called “minimalist” and compared to that of Raymond Carver, her focus is on creating mood rather than building to sharp emotional resolutions. Her stylistic evolution has moved with the times of her generation. The “non-emotive coolness” of her writing notwithstanding, she evokes a wry, absurd view of the world and questions the pretenses we use to evade reality and mask our failures to communicate.

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